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Vol. 50, No. 11 November 2026

THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Dan Pritzker's *Fog City* Shoots Scenes in Noe

Movie Crew Transforms Block Of Noe Street to the 1930s

By Matthew S. Bajko

Posted fliers heralded 30 boxing bouts over three days at the Dreamland Auditorium, where attendees would "see the battle of the giants!" Other ads promised marionette shows at the San Francisco Boys Club with admission costing only a dime.

Still others urged a yes vote on a ballot measure repealing an anti-picketing ordinance.

Yet the posters weren't referring to this year's Nov. 3 election. Rather, they were harking back to a political fight in the 1930s.

The fliers, pasted on the side of a building near the intersection of Noe and 24th streets, were set decoration for *Fog City*, a drama that takes place during the construction of the Golden Gate Bridge.

Written and directed by Dan Pritzker, the movie is bringing a fictionalized version of Depression-era San Francisco to the big screen.

According to the movie database IMDb, *Fog City* is a film noir that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



A Break in the Action: Cast members await their moment in the making of *Fog City*, a noir drama set in Depression-era San Francisco. *Photo by Bill Yenne*

Interns Keep Farmers Market Humming

Students Talk About the Fruits Of Their Labor

By Matthew S. Bajko

Present every Saturday when the Noe Valley Farmers Market begins setting up at 6 a.m. are the vendors filling their stalls with organic, locally grown produce or the prepared foods they sell. Working to ensure things go smoothly is the market's longtime manager, Elizabeth Crane.

And assisting with the preparations to ready the weekly market for customers is at least one of its young interns. From early in the morning until the market clears out of the Noe Valley Town Square at 2 p.m., a local high school student is pitching in with the setup and takedown duties.

"We help direct traffic. It is such a small space, and the vendors' trucks are humongous," noted Emma Spivak, 17, one of two interns working this fall.

The interns lend a hand to those vendors who come alone or who need help in getting their produce or products arranged in their stalls. They also put out tables and chairs for the customers in the morning, then disassemble

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Noe Valley Bakery Still Rising After Three Decades

Mary and Michael Gassen Keep Perfecting the Recipe

By JL Odom

What are the makings of a neighborhood institution? Many years in one location. A line outside the door. Camaraderie among staff and customers. And of course, a chocolate chip pecan cookie that keeps people coming back for more—and more.

For 31 years and counting, Noe Valley Bakery has mixed all these ingredients and created a loyal following among visitors to its cozy bakeshop at 24th and Castro streets.

"We're very, very lucky and super appreciative of the community's response to us, and they trusted us right away, which I really love," said Michael Gassen, who founded the bakery with his wife, Mary Gassen.

That warm relationship with the neighborhood was something the Gassens imagined from the beginning. Their goal was to create more than a place to pick up bread and sweets: They wanted a bakery that would serve as a gathering place.

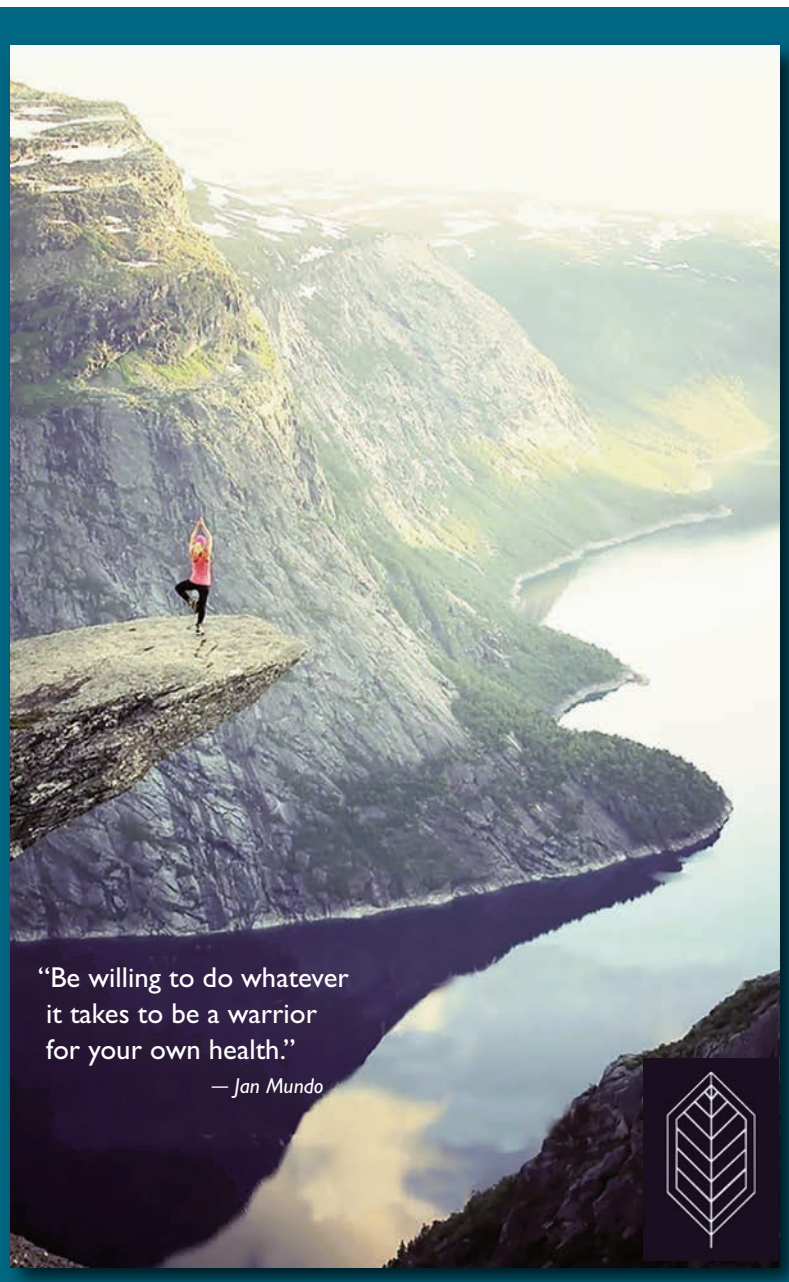
Michael, Noe Valley Bakery's master baker, and Mary, its strategic leader, relocated from Southern California to San Francisco in the 1990s. After living in the Castro, they moved to Noe Valley, onto 24th Street between Guerrero and Fair Oaks streets. There, they came across the bakery occupying the 4073 24th St. address. They also learned that the space had a long history of bakeries, dating back to 1908.



It's the Bombe: Michael Gassen stands outside the now iconic bakery he and wife Mary Gassen opened in February 1995. *Photo by JL Odom*

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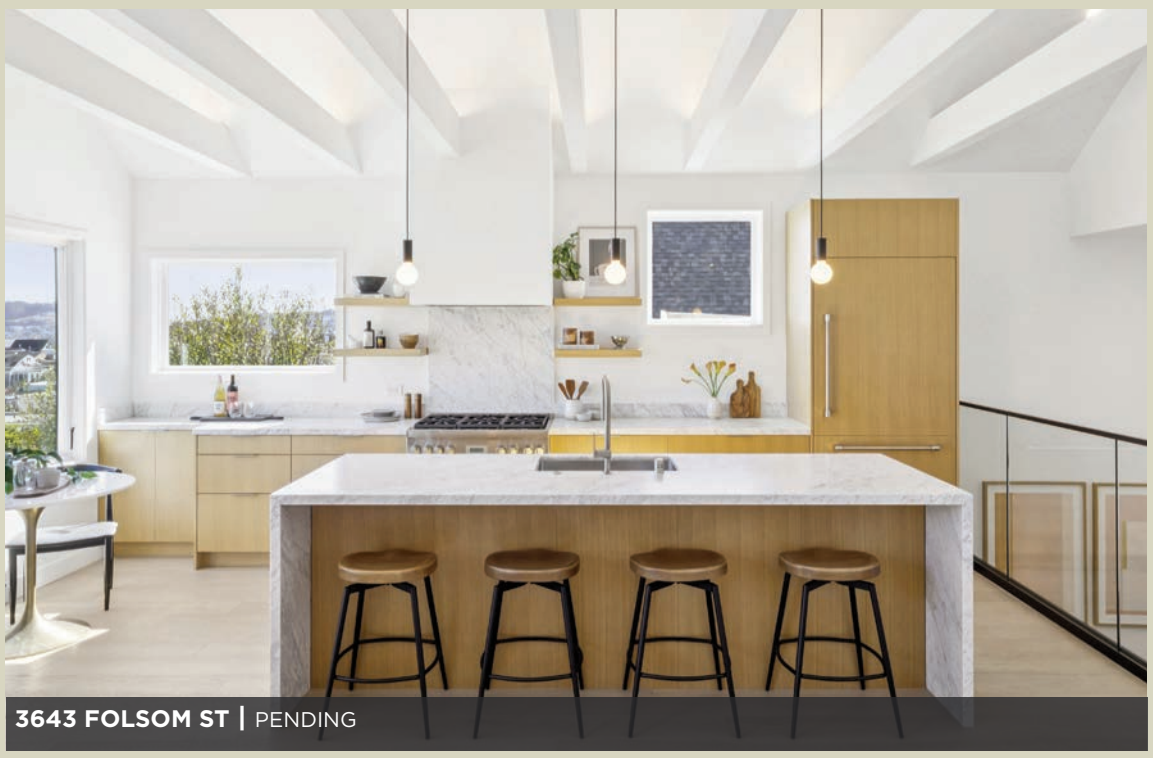
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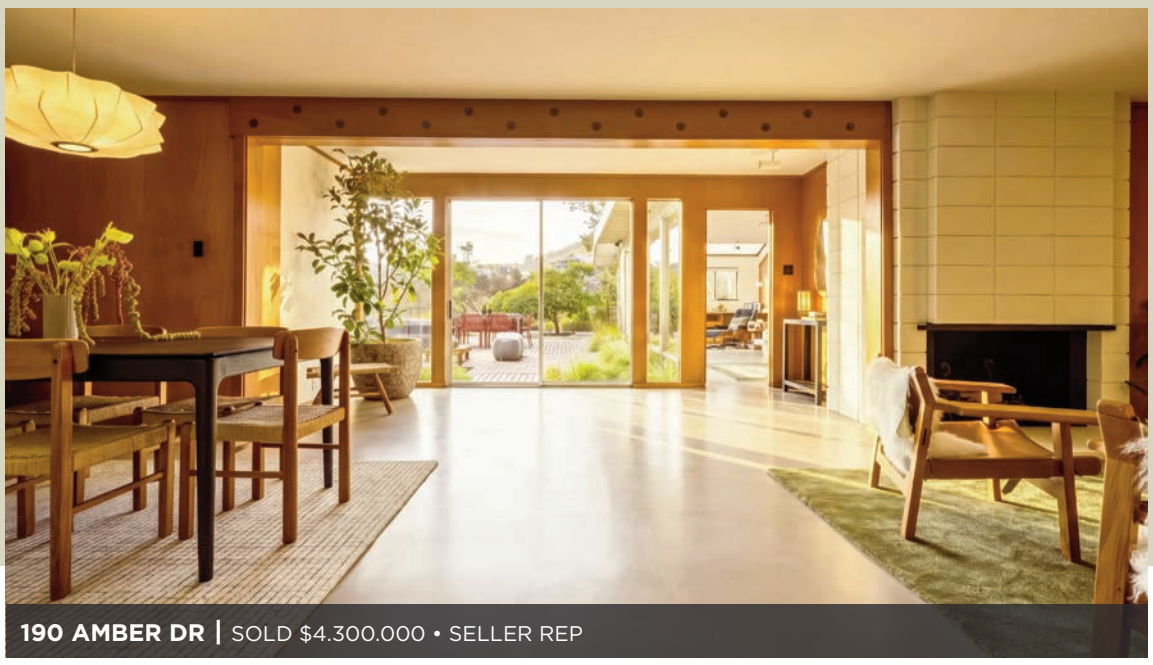
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City Moves Ahead With Street Renaming

Las Campesinas Chosen to Replace *César Chávez*

By John Ferrannini

San Francisco leaders are proceeding to rename César Chávez Street. On Oct. 20, District 9 Supervisor Jackie Fielder introduced a resolution of intention to rename the east-west thoroughfare Las Campesinas Street. *Las Campesinas* is Spanish for "the female farmworkers."

"This name is intended to honor the women, treated as faceless and nameless by many, who continue to work our fields, raise families, organize their communities, march on picket lines, endure harrowing conditions, and suffer in silence through sexual abuse and harassment," Fielder said at the introduction of the resolution at the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. "Even as they put food on our tables, they most often go unrecognized for their labor. They are a backbone of the very movement this street was named to honor. This name, rooted in the Latiné and immigrant experience, keeps this corridor, which borders the Calle 24 Latino Cultural District, connected to that heritage. Las Campesinas joins other streets with similar name length and complexity here in San Francisco."

San Francisco Mayor Daniel Lurie issued a statement as well.

"San Francisco's Latino community and the farmworker movement have shaped this city, and this vital artery should continue to honor that legacy," Lurie stated. "Thanks to thoughtful community engagement, we are proud to put forward a name that reflects the collective contributions of women workers and organizers."



A César Chavéz sign at the western end of a street that began as "Army" is not long for this world, as the SF Board of Supervisors is poised to remove it. *Photo by John Ferrannini*

Long History as Army

The street was named Army Street in the 1860s by local landowner John Meirs Horner. In 1995 it was renamed for Chávez, the late co-founder of the National Farm Workers Association (NFWA), and later ratified by San Francisco voters through Proposition O. Several blocks of the street run through Noe Valley, with Douglass Street providing the western terminus.

However, earlier this year, Chávez was accused of rape and other forms of sexual abuse. Among his accusers was NFWA co-founder Dolores Huerta.

In the aftermath of the revelations, Chávez' name and image are being removed from monuments, streets, and other institutions nationwide.

Honoring Farmworkers

In San Francisco, a main proponent of renaming Army for César Chávez in the 1990s was then Supervisor Susan Leal. This year, Leal joined forces with the city's Assessor-Recorder, Joaquín Torres, to co-chair an advisory group on the renaming.

Leal didn't return a request to comment for this story, but Torres said the two were asked by Mayor Daniel Lurie to lead the renaming effort.

The advisory group brought together labor, women's groups, social services, artists, and residents "to help deliberate and design a process by which we would consider" potential names. Hundreds of potential new names were floated by members of the public for the 3.5-mile street, including Chuck Norris Boulevard and a return to its old name of Army Street, Torres said, but the group's lodestar was honoring the city's Latino community and the farmworkers' rights movement.

"Latino heritage is San Francisco heritage," Torres said. "Latino character is San Francisco character."

Ultimately, the group came forward with potential street names in "Las Campesinas" and "Sí, Se Puede," both of which evoked the farmworkers' rights movement.

How the Name Was Chosen

Fielder legislative aide Jennifer Ferrigno stated that potential names were quickly narrowed from two to one because, "There was extensive feedback elicited from community members through an online input form, as well as emails and calls to all of our offices, which overwhelmingly indicated a preference for Las Campesinas."

Ferrigno stated that the resolution was "the first step." If passed, it would signal to the city's Department of Public Works that it was time to do outreach to the businesses and residents on the street. The Fire Department would also be consulted before a final report.

"The second step is legislation that the mayor or the board will introduce," Ferrigno wrote in an Oct. 21 email. "Usually, it is a final resolution to rename. However, in this unique case it requires an ordinance to (1) Confirm renaming decision; and (2) Waive MTA's rule to keep [the] former name on signage for 5 years (in this case it is everyone's intent to keep CC [César Chávez] name off all signs)."

The day after Fielder introduced the resolution, the San Francisco Chronicle published a story featuring criticism of the new name's length as well as voices complaining the process was not public enough.

For Torres, street names like Leidesdorff and Junipero Serra "are of similar complexity and length."

'Such a Great Fall'

Sharky Laguana, the proprietor of Bandago Van Rental, which is on César Chávez Street, said, "I don't necessarily think Las Campesinas Street is terribly long. There's longer street names out there, for sure, and I imagine we'll adapt over time."

Laguana said the renaming process is inclusive enough of the community.

"I provided my public comment on the names, and I don't necessarily think every single thing that the city does has to go through an exhaustive process," he said. "I am totally OK with letting people with expertise in these things do their noble best."

Noe Valley resident Marisol Jimenez said that she had heard of the Las Campesinas Street proposal.

"I'm good with whatever change they decide," she said.

Noe Valley resident Don Neuwirth said it was sad to see Chávez' reputation crumble after years of his being lionized as a hero.

"It's very sad to watch the truth come out about someone who was so revered," Neuwirth said.

Asked about the new proposed name, he replied, "That's fine. We should honor the Latino population of the city, even though the numbers are declining. I'm very sad such an institution [Chávez] had such a great fall." ■

LETTERS 82¢

It's Party Time

Editor:

One decade ago, as I write this today, Donald Trump won his first election on Nov. 8, 2016.

Two-and-a-half months later, he was inaugurated, and was immediately confronted by the Women's March of over a half million marchers in D.C., and over 5 million worldwide.

Two weeks later, four Noe Valley women organized "Action SF."

They—and later we—devised actions to effectively… fight…back.

Action SF has worked in the 10 nationally important general elections since (counting purple Virginia's "off-year" elections).

We've steered well over half a million dollars to grassroots voters groups working today on building better future elections, and to candidates ranging from 2018 midterm winner Congressman Josh Harder (just reelected) to 2026 midterm brand-new winner Congressman Randy Villegas! Both serve in California swing districts, in which we also knocked on doors and called voters.

We've organized postcards handwritten, stamped, and mailed by volunteers, to well over 25,000 swing state and swing district voters. In so many Noe Valley farmers markets and night markets since, we've spoken to our Noe neighbors to say: Actions Individuals Take Make A Difference.

Join our next meeting Tuesday, Nov. 17, and our party on Sunday, Dec. 6! Contact ActionSFTeam@gmail.com or Action-SF.com. Sincerely,

Charlie Spiegel

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The *Voice* welcomes your letters, photos, and stories, particularly on topics relating to Noe Valley. All items should include your name and contact information, and may be edited for brevity or clarity. (Unsigned letters will not be considered for publication.) Unsolicited contributions will be returned only if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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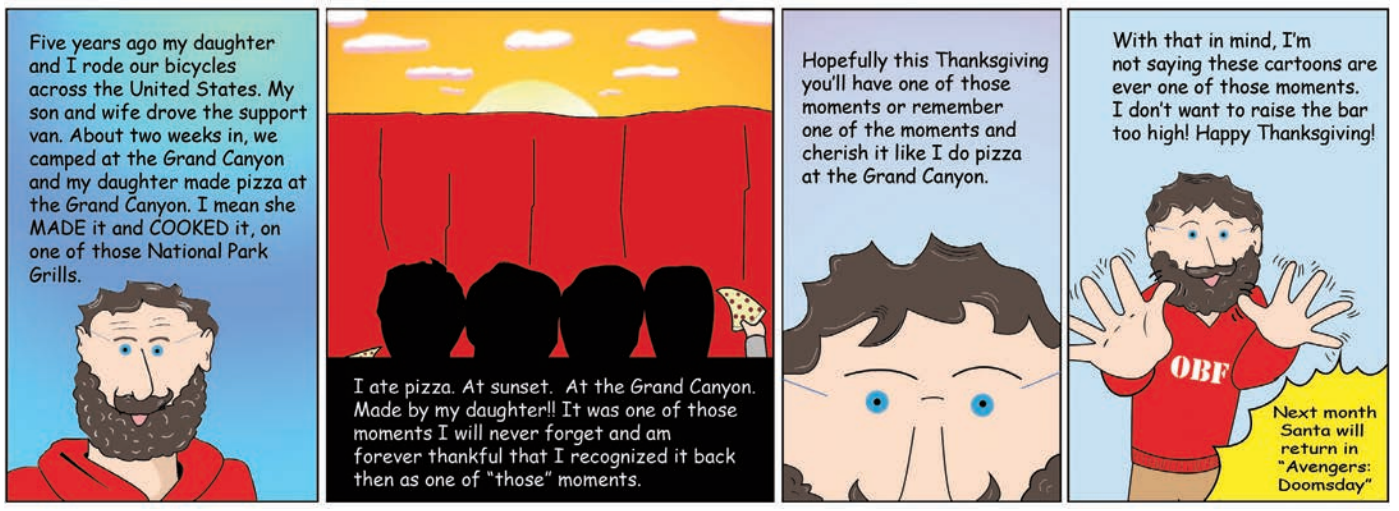
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THE CARTOON BY OWEN BAKER-FLYNN



CRIME SNAPSHOT: Zero Shoplifting, Rising Burglaries

Noe Valley achieved a rarity last month: not a single shoplifting incident appeared on the San Francisco Police Department's tally of crimes reported in September. Still, the SFPD's digital map counted 55 incidents—up from 43 in August—in the 10 crime categories the *Noe Valley Voice* tracks monthly. Also, the neighborhood saw an increase in burglaries. And, among the 15 reported, five were "hot prowls," break-ins where residents were home at the time. Meanwhile, the larceny-theft category, usually jammed with shoplifting reports, was populated by 21 other types of thefts, including five smash-and-grabs from cars, four bicycle thefts, and three package thefts. The positive? The total was the lowest this year. *—Corrie M. Anders, Sally Smith*

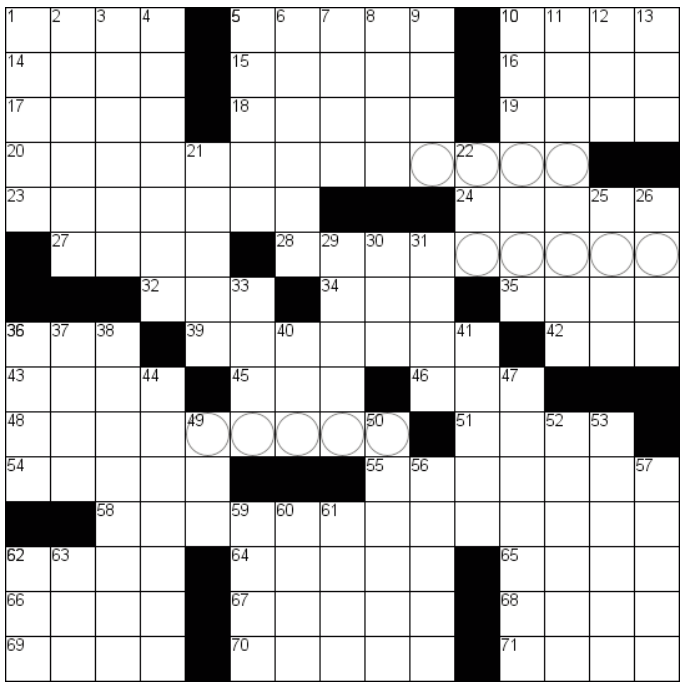
Noe Valley Incident Reports July 2025 – September 2026

Crime Category	Jul25	Aug25	Sep25	Oct25	Nov25	Dec25	Y2025	Jan26	Feb26	Mar26	Apr26	May26	Jun26	Jul26	Aug26	Sep26
Larceny/Theft	28	31	36	35	33	43	419	38	37	32	28	31	43	22	22	21
Burglary	14	18	16	11	10	9	157	6	10	15	9	5	5	9	6	15
Malicious Mischief	7	6	9	4	6	8	68	2	2	7	5	5	6	2	5	3
Motor Veh. Theft	6	4	9	5	2	4	61	1	4	3	2	4	5	3	2	3
Assault	2	0	4	6	0	1	26	1	1	6	2	5	5	2	3	0
Robbery	1	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1
Other Misc	2	4	4	7	4	4	72	2	4	2	5	1	3	4	2	5
Fraud	4	1	2	11	5	2	49	3	7	1	5	1	4	2	1	5
Family D.Violence	1	1	1	1	3	3	25	8	3	0	4	3	4	2	0	1
Vandalism	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1
Totals	**65**	**65**	**82**	**80**	**63**	**74**	**887**	**53**	**68**	**66**	**61**	**56**	**75**	**46**	**43**	**55**

Source: Dataset titled "Map of Police Department Incident Reports: 2018 to Present" at https://data.sf.gov/Public-Safety/Map-of-Police-Department-Incident-Reports-2018-to-/jq29-s5wp. This data includes police incident reports filed by officers and by individuals through self-service online reporting for non-emergency cases. Disclaimer: The San Francisco Police Department does not guarantee the accuracy, completeness, timeliness, or correct sequencing of the information, as the data is subject to change as modifications or updates are completed. The *Noe Valley Voice* scraped the September 2026 data for Noe Valley on Oct. 20, 2026. "Noe Valley" on the SFPD's digital map is bordered by 21st Street, San Jose Avenue/Guerrero, 30th Street, and Grand View Avenue/Diamond Heights Boulevard. *Noe Valley Voice November 2026*

THE CROSSWORD BY MICHAEL BLAKE

Left High and Dry



ACROSS

1. Auto loan terms: Abbr.
5. Closes
10. Mobile downloadables
14. Shade of red
15. Bottom line
16. Carbonated drink
17. Bridges of Hollywood
18. City near Kyoto
19. Tehran's locale
20. Comment about a fortunate misfortune, with "It was"
23. Unleashed
24. Fortune teller's deck
27. ___-in-the-wool
28. Opening words in a daily journal
32. FDR or LBJ, party-wise
34. Actor Tommy ___ Jones
35. Hockey-puck shape
36. Good degree for a museum job
39. ___ the wrong way: being abrasive
42. Follower of tic-tac
43. Singer Guthrie
45. A hundred, written out?
46. Round figure?
48. English coin once worth 2.5 shillings
51. "Spamalot" creator Idle
54. "___ Easy" (1977 Ronstadt hit)
55. Kind of illusion
58. Where you risk being taken if you go to the circled places in Noe Valley?
62. Brown before roasting
64. Dodo
65. Explorer Vasco da ___
66. Actor Damon
67. Make ___ of
68. "This is the thanks ___?"
69. Takes to court
70. Express disdain
71. Hamilton's bills

DOWN

1. The P.L.O.'s Mahmoud ___
2. Prepared, as potatoes
3. Noe Valley's Hall or Compass
4. Like many turkeys and Thanksgiving diners
5. ___ Trek: Regular **Voice* feature
6. Had people over for dinner, say
7. Fourth Street's historic Hotel ___ Saloon
8. Give's opposite
9. Chunk of concrete
10. "Let me reiterate..."
11. Landscape alternative, when printing
12. BlackBerry or Palm Pilot, for short
13. Start of many California city names
21. Command
22. Airport monitor abbr.
25. Approximately
26. Toddler
29. Arm joint
30. "___, O, U, and sometimes Y"
31. Apt rhyme for "casino"
33. Marin County's ___ Woods
36. When doubled, a Hawaiian fish
37. Greek-letter club
38. "You're in good hands" company
40. Disapproving shout
41. Actress Garbo
44. In a way
47. "Give me your best shot!"
49. Bed in a tent
50. Can't-miss
52. Frigid historic period
53. "Toreador Song" opera
56. Actor O'Toole
57. Exams for attys.-to-be
59. Greeting for the villain
60. Paradise
61. Film, to Jean Cocteau
62. Text-format letters
63. Evian or Perrier

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Solution on Page 21
Find more Crosswords at www.noevalleyvoice.com



Local Tribute: The Noe Valley Merchants treated the 1st Marine Division Brass Band to a sit-down dinner catered by Novy Restaurant after the band performed a New Orleans–style jazz and pop concert at the Noe Valley Town Square on Oct. 6. "It was an extremely well attended event," reported Merchants treasurer Carol Yenne. "It included several Fleet Week dignitaries, Supervisor Rafael Mandelman, and Dean Crispen, San Francisco's current fire chief." The concert was one of dozens organized by the San Francisco Fleet Week Association, which has an office in Noe Valley at 1104 Sanchez St. *Photo courtesy Carol Yenne*

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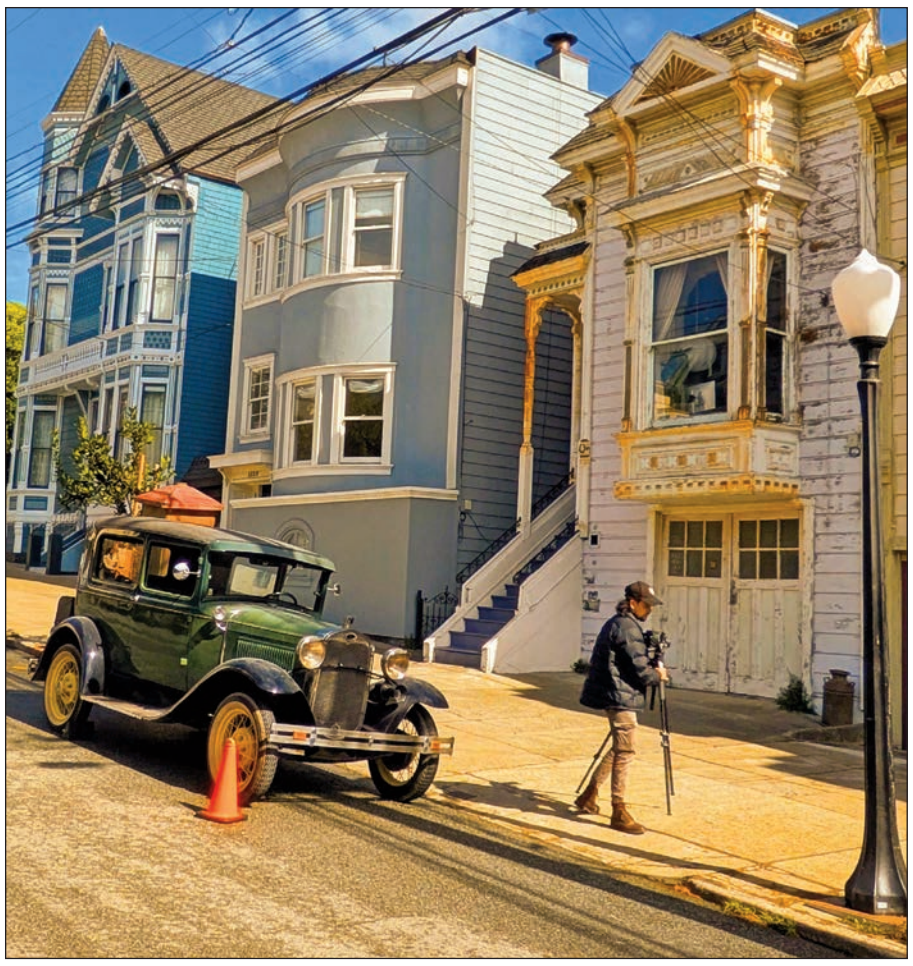
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Fog City movie makers brought cars, sets, and period costumes to Noe Valley on Oct. 19 for an early-morning shoot on Noe Street between 24th and Elizabeth streets.

Photos by Local Observer Bill Yenne







Fog City Film Crew Spends Morning on Noe Street

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"examines the interwoven stories of an underground abortionist, a police inspector, a Dust Bowl transplant, and a blackmailing socialite and her son."

The film crew was in the city last month filming outdoor scenes in Noe Valley, the Mission, and Pacific Heights near Alta Plaza Park.

"I thought it was good to see them filming in San Francisco again. I remember 30 years ago, there used to be a lot of films shot in San Francisco," said local historian Bill Yenne, who has lived in Noe Valley since the early 1970s.

A friend had called him the morning of Oct. 19 to alert Yenne that the film crew was in the neighborhood that Monday. In between running his usual errands, Yenne stopped by the live set for roughly an hour.

"I talked to a few people. Nobody seemed to want to say very much," said Yenne, who took photos of the crew and background actors while they crossed the street and milled about between takes on the Noe side of the neighborhood's Starbucks location.

Yenne exclusively shared his photos with the *Voice*, also capturing the camera operators setting up on the sidewalk of Noe Street and the period-appropriate cars lining the block between 24th and Elizabeth streets, chosen for its array of Victorian homes. The collection of vintage vehicles had been parked on Clipper Street at Douglass the weekend prior to the filming.

"It's always fun to see the old cars. I had to laugh at the fake license plates because I have a couple of 1940s license plates that are in my garage," said Yenne, adding that he "kept waiting for a car chase and kept waiting for my cameo, but nobody called me over."

Just weeks prior, Yenne had come across a film crew shooting a commercial for the clothing retailer American Eagle Outfitters in the same vicinity of 24th Street near the restaurant NOVY. Back in 1991, he had witnessed the filming for the musical comedy *Sister Act* at St. Paul's Catholic Church. For weeks, it had transformed the block of Church Street between Valley and 29th streets into a seedy strip with fake pawn shops, adult video stores, and houses scrawled with graffiti.

The *Fog City* shoot was a whistle stop.

"If you have ever been at a movie set, you know it is 'hurry up and wait.' Lots of standing around waiting. I'd be surprised if more than a minute of Noe Street gets into the film," said Yenne. "Who knows. The old cars were starting to drive away by around noon."

Budgets Ballooning

Local and state leaders in recent years have increased their outreach to film directors and movie studios to encourage them to keep their productions in the Golden State.

Last year, the state legislature and Governor Gavin Newsom expanded California's Film & Television Tax Credit Program by raising the credit amount, expanding project eligibility, and providing greater flexibility for utilizing the credit. The program's annual funding also increased from $330 million to $750 million, which was a landmark investment in bringing film and television production back to California.

The San Francisco Film Commission claims to have permitted 309 productions in the city from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, an increase of 28 percent from the previous fiscal year. The projects generated an estimated $32.3 million in direct local spending, an 84.6 percent increase over the previous year's $17.5 million, the commission reported in its annual report released in September.

"San Francisco has everything filmmakers need to tell their stories—from iconic locations and world-class crews to a vibrant film and media ecosystem," says Manijeh Fata, current director of the film commission, also known as Film SF. "Our role is to make it as easy and competitive as possible to film here, by continuing to improve city processes, advocating for the production community, and delivering the highest level of service."

While she was unable to see the filming in Noe Valley, Fata was on set at the other *Fog City* shoots in the city. Having someone like Pritzker, who lives in the Bay Area, film on location not only aids her efforts to attract other filmmakers, Fata noted, it also benefits local shops and restaurants patronized by the productions, helps local crews and actors find jobs near their homes, and even boosts tourism to the city.

"Productions generally coming and filming in the city spend a lot of money locally over a short period of time, and then they leave. But that film has a lasting impact. It is archival," said Fata. "There is a lot of synergy between people who want to make films here and the people who see them and get inspired about what makes the city so special. They want to come visit."

Cooper Koch Stars

None of the lead actors in *Fog City* appeared to be shooting scenes in Noe Valley, said Yenne, as the actors he photographed looked as if they might be supporting cast members or extras in the movie.

Starring in one of the lead roles, as police inspector Steven Walsh, is Cooper Koch, the Emmy and Golden Globe nominee for his role in the smash Netflix series *Monsters: The Lyle and Erik Menendez Story.*

Also playing top roles in the movie are Miranda Otto, best known from her performance in the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy; British actor Angus Imrie *(Emma, Ink)*; and Carla Gugino, who appeared in another film that shot scenes in San Francisco, the earthquake movie *San Andreas,* released in 2015.

Pritzker, a billionaire heir to the Hyatt Hotels fortune, told the entertainment publication *Deadline,* "It's a privilege to work on a story about San Francisco, a city I love, and to bring together such a great group of actors. I'm excited to work with such a talented cast and crew to tell this story." ■



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Students Get Up Early to Help Vendors at Market

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the seating in the afternoon.

"It is really interesting to me how much goes into setting up the market. Customers don't really see the intricacy that goes into setting up the tents and moving everything around and putting out the tables," said Travis Schrader, 16, the other current intern. "There are a lot of things that go into setting up and taking down the market. I guess I understand why they have interns now. I doubt one person could manage the market and do everything else also."

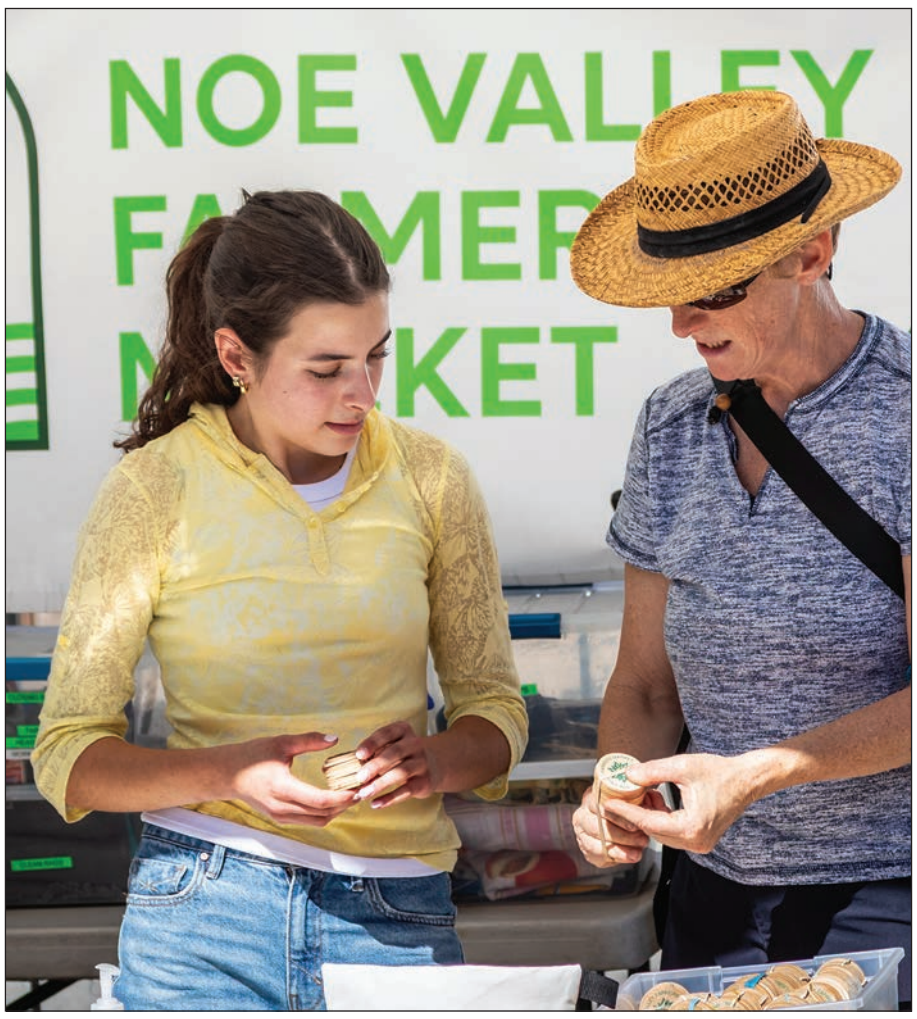
Once their school year ends in June, a crop of newly selected youth will begin training with the interns they are set to replace in August or September. Having two interns at a time allows them to switch off every other Saturday, as they commit to working at the farmers market two Saturdays a month.

"Once I am sure they can do what I am asking them to do, I let them loose," said Crane, whose goal is to see the interns take some initiative in assisting the vendors or enforcing the market's restrictions on dogs being near the food stalls.

The interns also help out at the information table in front of the square, answering questions and handing out the wood coins given to customers enrolled in the California Electronic Benefits Transfer system who use their benefits to shop with the vendors.

Crane also asks the students to collect the stall fees from the vendors and operate the stalls when vendors need to take a bathroom break.

"This is not just work experience. You are not stuffing envelopes and keeping your head down. You have to



Farmers Market manager Elizabeth Crane (right) shows student intern Emma Spivak how to band tokens used as money by certain customers at the produce stands. *Photo by Art Bodner*

learn to interact with people," noted Crane. "I think this Covid generation really needs it. Honestly, they had to put up with so much during their formative years of school, they need a lot of training on how to be out there again."

Having to wake up on a Saturday morning at 5 a.m. to be on time for their shift at the market isn't appealing to most high school students, Crane acknowledged. It can turn off the young workers—or their parents, who may need to get up to drive them to the market.

"It does take a special breed of kid to be able to get up that early," said Crane. "A big part of what we are teaching is you've got to show up. It doesn't matter if it is dark or rainy or you're tired; you show up. To me, that is such a huge lesson for high school kids to learn."



Student intern Travis Schrader carries paper bags to supplement those that may be needed by vendors or customers during the day. *Photo by Art Bodner*

Vibrant and Lively

Recently departed intern Clarice Tan was mortified to field an email from Crane asking where she was the first Saturday morning of her internship in January of 2025. She had overslept, and she feared she would be let go.

"Now we can tease about it," said Tan, 18, speaking to the *Voice* from London, where she is doing a study-abroad program during her freshman year at Boston-based Northeastern University. "I was never late again."

An Ingleside Terrace resident who graduated from St. Ignatius College Preparatory School, Tan learned about the internship while walking her dog and accompanying her mom to 24th Street on Saturdays to shop at the farmers market. One day in the fall of 2024, Tan noticed a sign at the market seeking intern applicants. Having stopped playing basketball, she was looking for another activity to do outside the classroom.

"There was something about the environment that felt very vibrant and lively, with the vendors and customers way interactive," Tan recalled about her first visit to the market. "It was something special to me. I thought, I want to be a part of that."

As the interns are compensated for their work, the farmers market board allocates around $8,000 per year for the program. Tan noted it was the first time she'd had a paid job.

"The biggest love I had for my job was the people. The community at the market is so welcoming," said Tan, a major in business administration with a concentration in finance. "The people and vendors and all the returning visitors were what truly made the place special."

She used her experience as an intern to answer a question about community on her college application.

"The farmers market is a clear example of what community is to me. It is just like my family," said Tan, who during her time as an intern posted photos of foods for sale to the market's social media accounts. "I haven't found a farmers market in London, but there are food markets here. The vendors mainly sell prepared food, but it still feels bustling and like a community with everyone sharing space around food."

One of a Kind

In San Francisco, the nonprofit Foodwise offers a paid program for students attending two of the city's public high schools that includes hands-on experience working at the Ferry Plaza Farmers Market on Saturdays. The Noe Valley Farmers Market believes it is the only market in the city that runs its own internship program.

A former vendor, Malik Ranch Nuts, had sparked the idea. They had hired a local high school student to work at their stall and thought the farmers market should also hire the youth to give them extra job skills and an experience they could talk about on their college applications. When the Noe Valley market's board agreed, the vendor covered the cost for the program its first year, said Crane, who believes it began in 2014.

Since then, about a dozen high school juniors and seniors have been selected for the internship, committing to either one or two years with the market. Those interested can stop by the information booth to ask for an application. They need to attend high school in the city, but they don't have to live in Noe Valley.

Interviews are conducted in March or April each year, when slots opens up. The new interns are notified in May.

The program ties into the market's focus on community and social justice, said board member Regina Ridley.

"It is a great opportunity to give high school students a chance to have a job where they have a lot of responsibility and can learn a lot," Ridley said. "It is a great experience for college and for life. Going to work on time at 6 a.m. is not easy."

Nonetheless, there were 12 applicants this year for the two internships.

A Way to Be Phone Free

Spivak, who lives in Diamond Heights, is in her senior year at the Urban School of San Francisco and learned about the program via an email sent out by her school. Already employed to teach art to younger students at an afterschool program, Spivak was looking to pick up another job and thought being a market intern would be a good fit.

"It is really, really nice to be so involved in the community. Something I especially struggle with is just being on my phone a lot and not really living in the moment and connecting with my city where I have lived my whole life," said Spivak. "There are so many things I have never experienced, and the farmers market was one of those things."

Being an intern also ties into her wanting to pursue an environmental science degree and study forestry and forest management in college. In talking to the vendors with family-owned farms, she is learning about food sustainability efforts undertaken on a smaller scale.

"I am really excited to work for a nonprofit and also to be connected with food production because I am really passionate about the environment. I know that the way food is produced and the way our food delivery systems are shaped right now are extremely unsustainable," said Spivak.

Enjoying the Ecosystem

Schrader, who lives in Bernal Heights, also learned about the internship from the Urban School, where he is a junior. He and his mom had started shopping at the farmers market at the start of the Covid pandemic in 2020 but had stopped going regularly by 2023.

"I had been looking for a job, and it was interesting to me to help out in a place where I had been before and to help out people who had fed me when I was a little younger. It is nice to make a meaningful contribution," said Schrader. "Obviously, I get paid, but it means something to be able to help them continue their livelihoods, the vendors at the market. Plus, the market feeds so many people. It is really interesting, and I really enjoy being part of, I guess, the ecosystem of the farmers market."

The Saturdays he isn't working the market as an intern Schrader can be found staffing the Herr Family Farm stall. Crane connected him with co-owner Kou Herr in the spring when the stall was looking to hire some help.

"I wish I had become an intern earlier, I would have been less of a bum my sophomore year," said Schrader, who hopes to remain at the market until he leaves for college.

"One reason is for the experience," he said, "but also it's sort of because, genuinely, everyone at the market is just the most generous people you will ever meet." ■

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Noe Valley Bakery A Sweet Mainstay On 24th Street

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The bakery's then-current operation, however, wasn't drawing customers or serving the area in the way Michael Gassen envisioned.

"It was old and tired, and it just wasn't alive," he said.

A bakery, he thought, should be the hub of the neighborhood. He and Mary became invested in wanting to provide that for the Noe Valley community.

The Gassens initially tried to buy the business, approaching its owner a few times over the course of a year and a half, without luck. When the owner developed health problems and needed to retire, word that the bakery was for sale reached them through an unexpected source.

Carol Yenne, owner of nearby children's store Small Frys, heard about the sale and immediately contacted a friend and neighbor of hers, who passed the news along to the Gassens.

"We jumped on it," Gassen said. The purchase came together quickly, within about 60 days. The occasion coincided with another major milestone in their lives.

"We bought the bakery on a Wednesday in 1994, and we got married on the following Saturday," he said.

The couple had already been practicing their baking skills while operating another bakery in the back of an Italian restaurant downtown. "The bones of Noe Valley Bakery were there, and then we just took it to Noe Valley," he said.

After purchasing the business in September, they spent the following months cleaning, renovating, and retooling the space. They wanted to bring back the feel of a traditional neighborhood bakery, with glass-enclosed displays filled with cupcakes, cookies, scones, tarts, and other treats, alongside rows of fresh bread loaves.

"We thought, 'Let's just make a lot of stuff, let's keep the shelves full, and let's make it vibrant and really lively,'" he said.

In preparation for opening day, the Gassens made hundreds of loaves of bread, 50 cakes, and 500 pastries. When they officially opened Noe Valley Bakery on Feb. 20, 1995, they sold out of everything shortly after noon.



Ivan Wong (left) visited Noe Valley Bakery on Sunday, Nov. 1, to pick up a birthday cake he had ordered. Michael Gassen (right) was in the bakery helping Wong and other customers.

Photos by JL Odom

"We just got swarmed, and that's how it's been from day one," he said.

In March 2017, the Gassens opened a second Noe Valley Bakery location, in the West Portal neighborhood (28 W. Portal Ave.). The two shops now generate approximately 30,000 transactions per month combined, Gassen said.

'Tis the Season for Treats

For the owners and the bakery staff, the holidays mean a busy stretch, with plenty of occasions to celebrate and just as many, if not more, items to bake and sell. "Our holiday season really starts with Rosh Hashanah [which began on Sept. 11 this year], and then we get into high gear," Gassen said.

Fall offerings include apple cranberry frangipane tarts, jalapeño and potato quiche, gingerbread scones with Meyer lemon glaze, and pumpkin spice muffins and cookies.

In October, Halloween-specific sweets behind the counter included cupcakes topped with a candied Jack Skellington from Tim Burton's *The Nightmare Before Christmas* and smiling jack-o'-lanterns and spiders atop sprinkles and icing, as well as ghost- and pumpkin-shaped cookies.

"We have officially lost count of how many pumpkin treats we've made. And we're not particularly interested in counting," reads one Noe Valley Bakery Instagram post.

In November, the bakery shifts its focus to Thanksgiving, followed by Hanukkah and Christmas items, like peppermint cake, in December. The holiday-themed baking continues into the new year with king cake for Epiphany (Jan. 6) and a slew of sweet treats for Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Purim, and beyond.

"There's no rest for the weary," Gassen said.

Dabbling in New Offerings

The Gassens aren't afraid to spice—or sweeten—things up with additions to the bakery's menu, such as a new matcha cake that's now available.

In late October, customers could stop in for the bakery's pan de muerto, a sweet bread for the Day of the Dead, featuring anise and candied orange.

There will also be a new cake in December, one meant to replace the traditional log-shaped bûche de Noël (Yule log). "That's one of those really old-school products that we've always made [during the holidays] that has fallen out of favor," said Gassen. "We've been trying to bolster its appeal and keep it going, but there's only so much room in the cake case."

The new cake will have similar flavors and components, Gassen said, but will be shaped differently. He knows retiring the Yule log may disappoint some longtime customers, but hopes they'll embrace the replacement.

"Hopefully they won't show up with pitchforks and torches," he said with a laugh.

Keeping the Line Moving

It's not unusual to find a line of customers stretching along the sidewalk outside Noe Valley Bakery, a testament to its popularity. The bakery added stanchions to designate a queuing area during the Covid-19 pandemic, when customers needed more room to space out.

The arrangement has stuck, helping customers and staff keep the line organized.

The Gassens also introduced a separate line for people picking up orders placed in advance, allowing them to bypass the regular queue.

"If you have a pre-order, you can just zip in and get your order and get out," he said. "We're always trying to be overstaffed, so that everything moves really quickly."

Sweet Confections

Gassen attributes much of Noe Valley Bakery's success to its location. "Generations of Noe Valleyans have been conditioned to going to that same spot for 118 years."

But a major part of the bakery's appeal, he said, has to do with how he, Mary, and the staff treat their customers.

"We talk to you, we say hello, we look you in the eye. We're really nice and super friendly," he said.

They also offer a 10 percent senior discount on Tuesdays and Thursdays. (Just remember to mention it at the register.)

"We give you every reason to just come in and be happy," Gassen said.

Managers Become Partners

In January of this year, Michael and Mary Gassen offered business partnerships to two longtime staff members: Xavier Madarang, the bakery's chief operations officer, who joined in 2012, and Saundra O'Day, its culinary operations officer, who joined in 2020.

The two have been managing day-to-day operations of both shops for the past two years, as the Gassens gradually reduce their roles and become smaller owners of the bakery.

Michael Gassen said Madarang and O'Day "cherish the relationship the bakery has with the neighborhood and appreciate the responsibility they have in carrying on our legacy."

He added that they have committed to continuing to operate the bakery as he and Mary have for decades and have the Gassens' "full trust and confidence."

"They have proven themselves," he said. "Our dream, our plan, and the promise is that the bakery is not going to change. It's just going to keep going on the way that it has."

Noe Valley Bakery will celebrate its 32nd anniversary in February 2027, no doubt by baking a few extra cakes.

Gassen says he and Mary are grateful for the community's backing of their shop over so many years.

"The neighborhood's support is not lost on us," he said. "It's very humbling to be able to be in business in Noe Valley for this long." ■

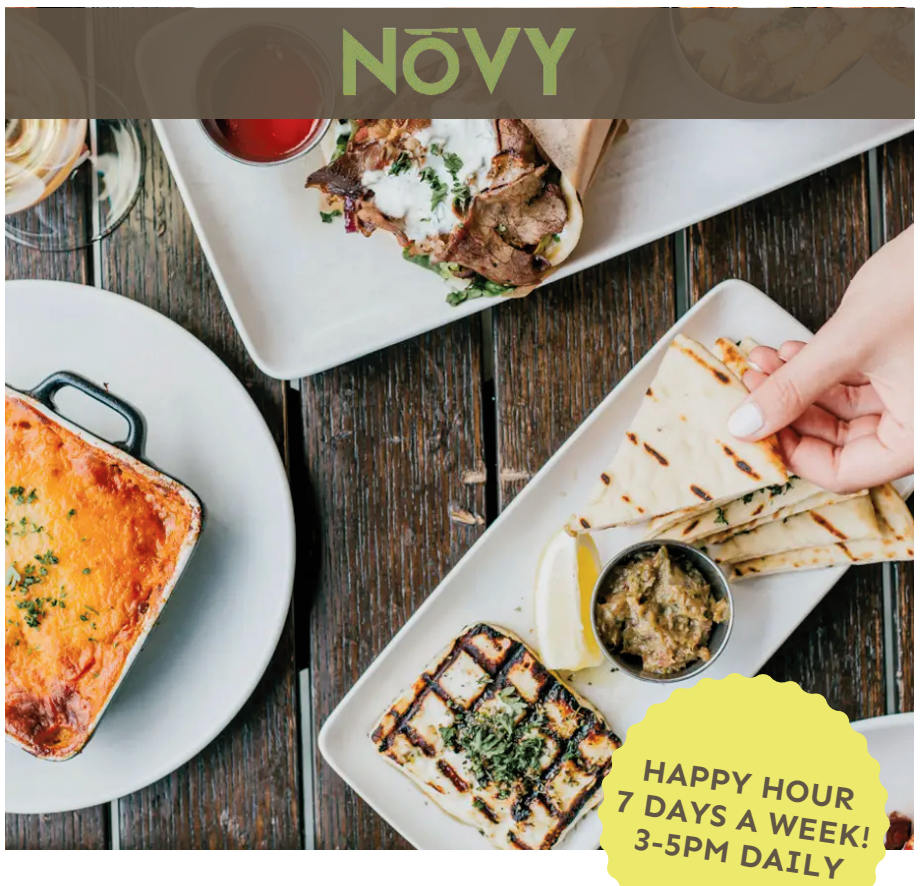


Behind the counter at Noe Valley Bakery are a variety of treats, including tartlets, eclairs, cupcakes, cheesecakes, and bombes. On Sunday, Nov. 1, customers could purchase a Golden State Valkyries cupcake (center) in celebration of the team's 2026 WNBA championship win.



An A-frame sign typically sits on the sidewalk outside of Noe Valley Bakery at 4073 24th St. This one announced a new matcha cake.

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Cindy Cohn Defends Privacy And Free Speech

Local Attorney Still Battling For Human Rights

By Liz Highleyman

Cindy Cohn has spent three decades, mostly as a Noe Valley resident, fighting for civil liberties in cyberspace, but the threat is more pressing than ever in the era of increasingly powerful AI.

This year, with a new book under her belt, Cohn stepped down after 11 years at the helm of the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) to return to the trenches of litigation and advocacy.

EFF focuses on protecting digital privacy, defending free expression, and opposing mass surveillance, through litigation, policy work, and grassroots activism. "EFF was founded to make sure that when you go online, your rights go with you," says Cohn, 62.

Privacy's Defender: My 30-Year Fight Against Digital Surveillance (MIT Press) chronicles Cohn's key legal battles over the years and helps set the record straight about the history of the internet and the tech industry.

"I started reading all these histories of the early internet, and they were all about guys and the companies they founded," Cohn told the *Noe Valley Voice* in an October meet-up at the Noe Valley Town Square. "I felt like that was incomplete, because the work we did had to do with people's rights, not making money or building tools.

"I also felt that today we are living with the results of making a series of bad decisions about digital privacy and security, and it's important to retrace a little bit of how we got here in order to help get us out of it."



Cindy Cohn relaxes in a leafy corner of the Noe Valley Town Square while wearing the same "Let's Sue the Government" shirt she wore on *The Daily Show* with Jon Stewart last March. A top attorney, she's spent the last three decades fighting digital surveillance. *Photo by Jan Brittenson*

A Hotbed of Hackers

Cohn grew up in Iowa as an adopted child of a Jewish family in a mostly Christian town. She graduated from the University of Michigan Law School in 1989, then did a fellowship at the United Nations Center for Human Rights in Geneva. In 1990, she moved to San Francisco to be near her brother—and the Grateful Dead—and took a job at a general law firm to learn how to be a litigator.

At a housewarming party at her new place in the Haight, Cohn met tech entrepreneur and EFF cofounder John Gilmore. At the same party, she met her future boyfriend, with whom she would share a series of Noe Valley apartments over the years. Meeting these and other hackers opened up a whole new world.

"They lived largely free from the normal barriers of physical distance for collaboration, friendship, and community," she writes. "Most of them weren't in it to become millionaires, much less billionaires. They were there to solve interesting problems. Some, like John, were also thinking about how we could design the coming digital world to be a place that was even better than the physical one—or at the very least, not worse."

On the Electronic Frontier

In 1993, despite her lack of experience, Gilmore asked Cohn to take on a major cyberlaw case.

"I didn't know anything about computer law, but I think I was one of the only lawyers they knew," she recalls. "Mike Godwin [EFF's first attorney], said, 'Do you know how to do a lawsuit? We'll teach you everything else.'"

With EFF's backing, Cohn represented University of California Berkeley grad student Dan Bernstein in his lawsuit against the U.S. government's classification of computer encryption source code as a munition, which would require him to register as an arms dealer to publish his work online.

Bernstein v. Department of Justice took several years to work its way through the courts, but eventually it "became a landmark case that established that computer code is a form of protected speech under the First Amendment," Cohn says.

That legal victory also brought another big life change: The *New York Times* ran Cohn's photo in an article about the case, which led to her reconnecting with her birth family.

"AI supercharges surveillance because you can sort through a lot more data and find patterns. It has the ability to make mass surveillance far more powerful."
—Cindy Cohn

After winning the *Bernstein* case, Cohn became EFF's legal director in 2000, assembling a crack litigation team that took on cases dealing with online censorship, journalist shield laws, unconstitutional searches, automated surveillance, electronic voting machines, and overbroad copyright and patent laws.

Even as the tech legal work proliferated, Cohn still found time to take on occasional human rights cases, such as representing indigenous protesters fighting Chevron's environmental degradation in Nigeria.

Fifteen years later after joining EFF, Cohn took the helm as its executive director. The *National Law Journal* included her as one of the 100 Most Influential Lawyers in America in 2013, and Forbes named her one of America's Top 50 Women in Tech in 2018.

EFF saw numerous legal advances during Cohn's tenure, but the fight is not over—and new threats are continually emerging.

"It started after 9/11 with the idea that the government needed to be watching everybody's calls and emails because that would protect us against terrorism. Now we have mass surveillance everywhere, we have license plate readers, our phones are tracking us," she says. "Spying on people became the main business model of the internet. National security is used as a trump card that lets the government do whatever it wants."

What's more, she adds, "AI supercharges surveillance because you can sort through a lot more data and find patterns. It has the ability to make mass surveillance far more powerful."

Cohn often hears the argument that surveillance is necessary to stop crime, and that you have nothing to worry about if you're a law-abiding citizen. But she disagrees: "I think the risks of a society that is constantly surveilled far outweigh the benefits, and what's lost in the mix is freedom."

"We've seen the government use surveillance to go after people seeking reproductive health care, immigrants—or, really, people who look brown—trans people, and increasingly people who are protesting," she says. "If you think that this will never touch you or anyone you love or care about, you're kind of in denial about what's going on right now. Even if you're completely comfortable with this government and the people it's targeting, we know that if another government comes in, they may target a different set of people. If you don't check the power, you can't control who's going to use it later."

Book Also a Love Letter

A book about digital law could potentially be dry, but Cohn keeps hers lively with behind-the-scenes details about notable cases and the personalities involved—including EFF cofounder and Grateful Dead lyricist John Perry Barlow, National Security Agency whistleblower Edward Snowden, and Pentagon Papers leaker Daniel Ellsberg—interspersed with stories from her personal life.

After 20 years of living in and out of Noe Valley, Cohn now resides with her partner Patrick in the Mission, where she can often be seen walking her two 100-pound Bernese mountain dogs.

A key theme running throughout the book is "what it's like to devote your life to fighting the good fight and the value of community support," says Cohn. "It's kind of a love letter to the Bay Area.

"So many people came to San Francisco because they didn't fit in where they came from. If we put cameras on every corner, we're putting pressure on people to look like suburbia," she says. "Privacy gives people with less power a zone of protection against people with more power. That's why it's so important for LGBT people and people of color. Surveillance empowers the powerful. Privacy isn't a luxury any more than free speech is a luxury—they're foundational to a self-governing society."

Disclosure: Author Liz Highleyman and Cindy Cohn shared a house in Noe Valley in the mid-1990s.

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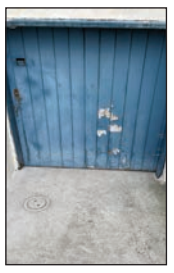
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To be eligible for seat appointment, you must have a minimum of five years professional experience in California as either a: (1) public accountant; (2) real estate broker; (3) attorney; or (4) property appraiser accredited by a nationally recognized organization, or certified by either the Office of Real Estate Appraiser or the State Board of Equalization.

For a full list of current or upcoming Boards, Commissions and Task Forces, please visit https://sfbos.org/vacancy-boards-commissions-task-forces.

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Department Announcements
Child Support Services
Child support matters can be stressful and complicated. The Department of Child Support Services helps parents understand the process so they know their rights and options for making and receiving support payments. Call us today at (866) 901-3212 or visit our office at 617 Mission Street to learn how we can help you. Information is also available online at sf.gov/dcss.
Emergency Management
sf.gov/ReadySF - The place to find everything you need to know before, during, and after an emergency. Stay ready, so you don't have to get ready. Brought to you by the San Francisco Department of Emergency Management (DEM).
Environment
The SF Environment Department is helping San Franciscans make the switch to cleaner, more efficient electric appliances. Our Better Electric public awareness campaign connects renters, homeowners, property managers and businesses with the resources to do it - plan upgrades, find contractors, advisors, and coaches, and explore available financial rebates and incentives - all in one place.
Through our county partnership with BayREN, eligible households can receive support for energy-saving improvements, including induction stoves for fast, precise cooking without an open flame, and heat pump heating and cooling. Multifamily property owners can access free technical assistance and rebates for efficiency and electrification projects. Small businesses can explore rebates, financing and expert guidance to reduce energy use and operating costs.
Whether replacing an appliance or planning a larger renovation, checking available resources is a smart first step! Explore San Francisco city and county resources and incentives for your home or business at SFEnvironment.org.

Housing Authority
The Housing Authority of the City and County of San Francisco (Authority) is actively seeking new property owners to participate in the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program. The program provides housing assistance to eligible individuals and families by paying a portion of their rent to private property owners.
Key benefits:
1.Guaranteed Monthly Rent: Property owners can rely on timely direct deposit rental payments from the Authority.
2.Expanded Tenant Pool: Property owners gain access to a broader pool of prospective tenants.
3.Community Impact: Partnering with the Authority supports affordable housing and the community.

We are interested in expanding housing opportunities in San Francisco zip codes 94129, 94123, 94105, 94127, 94114, 94131, 94116, 94118, 94158, 94122, 94107, 94117, 94112, 94121, and immediate suburban areas. For more information, please contact us at customercare@sfha.org or learn more at www.sfha.org.
Treasurer and Tax Collector
Scammers are targeting San Franciscans at record rates. Rental scams, fake government communications, and many others are costing residents money they can't afford to lose.
StopScams SF is the City and County of San Francisco's new program to help San Franciscans protect themselves from scams and get help if they've lost money. StopScams SF offers scam alerts delivered to your inbox, multilingual resources, and free financial counseling for scam victims.
Sign up for scam alerts at treasurer.sf.gov/stopscamssf

The City and County of San Francisco encourages public outreach. Articles are translated into several languages to provide better public access. The newspaper makes every effort to translate the articles of general interest correctly. No liability is assumed by the City and County of San Francisco or the newspapers for errors and omissions.

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The Cost of Living in Noe

Buyers Still Aggressive

By Corrie M. Anders

Despite the inflated prices, residential shoppers in September purchased nine single-family detached homes in Noe Valley, including one at a cost of $9.1 million.

The number of homes sold was triple that of August, but two fewer than in September of 2025, according to data supplied to the *Voice* by Corcoran Icon Properties.

This year's buyers, caught in the fever of an AI boom, went to great lengths to snag a property. Five of the nine ponied up $1 to $2 million over the seller's asking price.

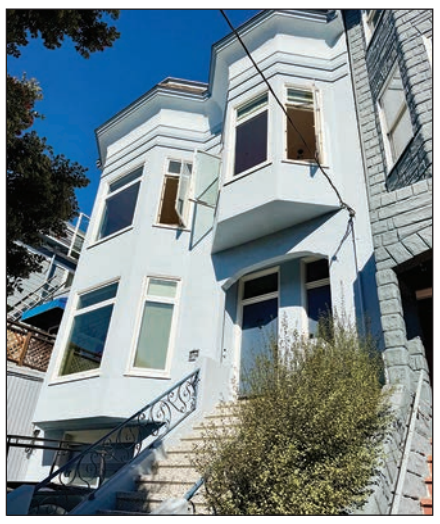
And for the second straight month, their extravagance pushed the average sales price of a Noe Valley house past $4.4 million. In September a year ago, that figure was "just" $3.1 million.

Buyer zeal, combined with a paucity of homes for sale, dominated the marketplace, said Christine Lopatowski, manager of Corcoran Icon's office at 4040 24th St.

Your average home shopper was outflanked by a group of "very competitive" buyers, she said. "They're cash buyers—people who can afford to throw out extra money."



A buyer in September paid $9.1 million—more than $2 million over the seller's asking price—for this five-bedroom house on Hoffman Avenue. *Photos by Corrie M. Anders*



The most expensive condominium sold in September was a three-bedroom residence on the top floor of this two-unit Victorian on 26th Street.

As for the lack of inventory, Lopatowski said, high mortgage interest rates, which hovered around 7 percent all summer, continued to dampen homeowners' enthusiasm for selling and buying a larger home.

"There are lots of people [homeowners] with three percent loans, and unless they have to, there is no reason to sell," said Lopatowski.

Hot Pockets

Luxury home sales were the most exuberant.

The $9.1 million property, located in the 400 block of Hoffman Avenue, between 24th and 25th streets, was Noe Valley's priciest this year and the fourth most expensive since 1999, when the *Voice* began tracking home sales data.

The buyer paid 30 percent—about $2 million—more than the seller's asking price ($6,995,000) to beat out challengers for the house.

Originally built in 1955, the completely renovated home offered five bedrooms and five baths, arranged in 4,268 square feet of living space. Among its modern features were a chef's kitchen with quartz island and counters, a home theater, a top-floor retreat/media room, decks with panoramic views, a two-car garage, and a yard with a hot tub.

Those with money to burn—but maybe not enough for the Hoffman home—turned to other local gems.

A buyer paid $7.65 million—or $2.15 million over the seller's asking price ($5,495,000)—for a Victorian in the 1000 block of Castro Street, between Elizabeth and 23rd streets.

Another paid $6.8 million, $1.3 million over asking ($5,495,000), for a house in the 300 block of Duncan Street between Church and Sanchez.

Condomania

Condominium sales also rose sharply. Buyers picked up keys to 12 units, compared to four in August and nine in September a year ago.

Condo shoppers were almost as aggressive as homebuyers, paying an average 29 percent above the seller's asking price. The average price for a condo climbed to $1.8 million, compared to last year, when the typical unit sold for just under $1.5 million.

The most expensive unit in September was a three-bedroom, two-bath flat in the 3900 block of 26th Street, between Church and Sanchez streets. The 1,564-square-foot home sold for $2,511,000—48.1 percent more than its asking price ($1,695,000).

Occupying the top floor of a two-unit Victorian, the remodeled home had kept its high ceilings and other period details. The new incarnation was wired for Ethernet and sound. It also boasted a spacious "great room," a gourmet kitchen with pantry, a gas fireplace, a two-car garage, southern views, and a landscaped back yard. ■

Noe Valley Home Sales*

Total Sales	No.	Low Price ($)	High Price ($)	Average Price ($)	Avg. Days on Market	Sale Price as % of List Price
Single-family homes						
September 2026	9	$1,850,000	$9,100,000	$4,418,541	7	134%
August 2026	6	$2,635,000	$6,400,000	$4,420,834	5	155%
September 2025	11	$1,525,000	$9,600,000	$3,050,000	31	111%
Condominiums/TICs						
September 2026	12	$1,150,000	$2,511,000	$1,811,455	23	129%
August 2026	4	$799,000	$2,480.000	$1,613,000	12	114%
September 2025	9	$740,000	$1,700,000	$1,247,500	34	109%
2- to 4-unit buildings						
September 2026	2	$1,950,000	$3,300,000	$2,625,000	7	135%
August 2026	1	$3,333,000	$3,333,000	$3,333,000	11	145%
September 2025	6	$1,204,000	$1,695,000	$1,490,000	76	99%
5+-unit buildings						
September 2026	1	$2,995,000	$2,995,000	$2,995,000	103	100%
August 2026	0	—	—	—	—	—
September 2025	3	$2,350,000	$8,400,000	$4,250,000	68	99%

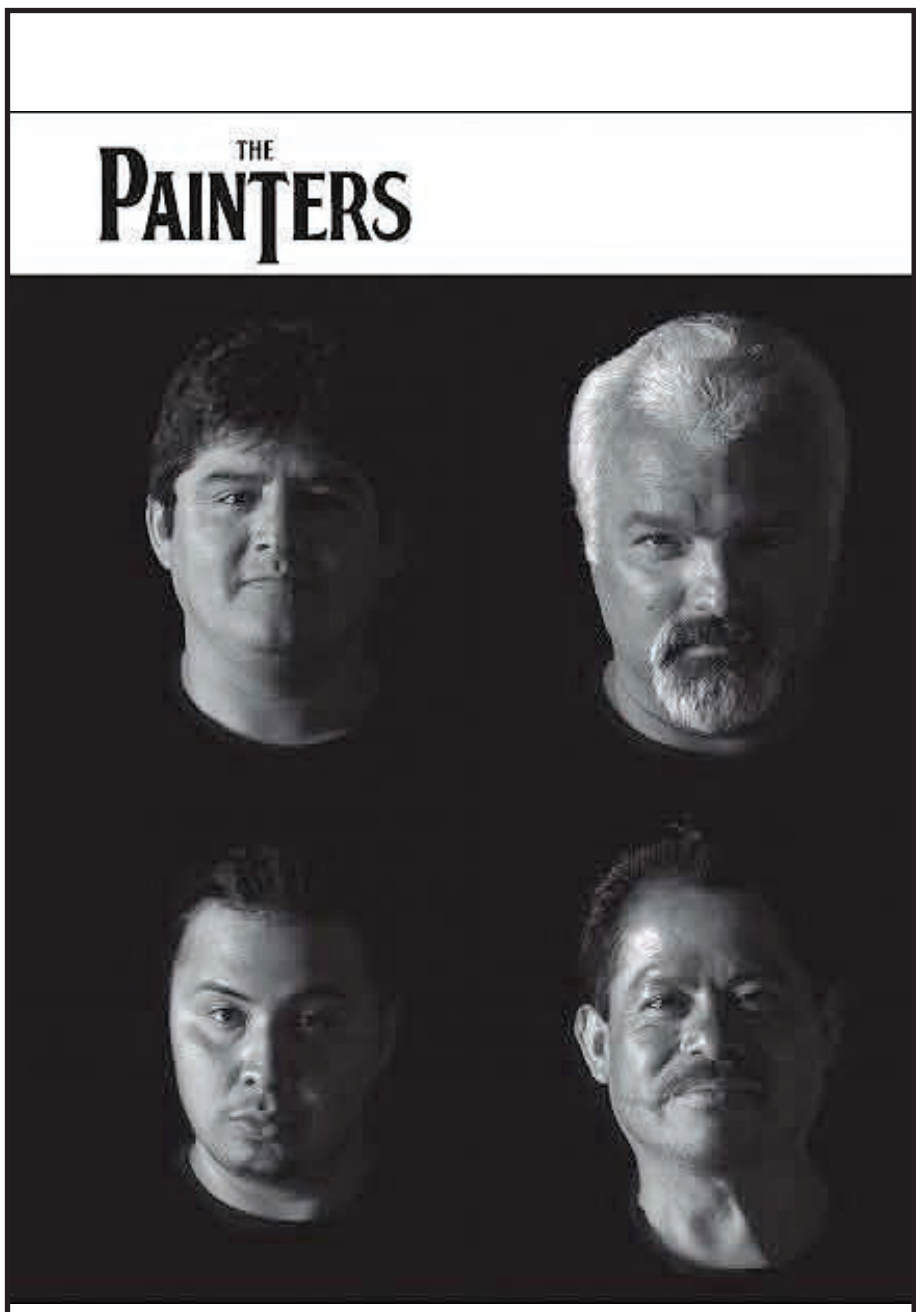
*This survey includes all Noe Valley home sales completed during the month. Noe Valley is loosely defined as the area bordered by Grand View, 22nd, Guerrero, and 30th streets. The *Noe Valley Voice* thanks Corcoran Icon Properties, San Francisco, for providing sales data. *NVV11/2026*

Noe Valley Rents**

Unit	No. in Sample	Range October 2026	Average October 2026	Average September 2026	Average October 2025
Studio	2	$3,399 to $4,500	$3,950 / mo.	$3,223 / mo.	$2,835 / mo.
1-bdrm	3	$2,500 to $4,750	$3,915 / mo.	$4,664 / mo.	$3,950 / mo.
2-bdrm	5	$5,200 to $7,495	$6,478 / mo.	$5,897 / mo.	$4,794 / mo.
3-bdrm	7	$6,495 to $9,995	$8,830 / mo.	$8,517 / mo.	$6,892 / mo.
4+-bdrm	1	$31,000 / mo.	$31,000 / mo.	$22,995 / mo.	N/A

** This survey is based on a sample of 18 Noe Valley rental listings appearing on Craigslist.org from Sept. 24 to Oct. 11, 2026. In October 2025, there were 37 listings. *NVV11/2026*

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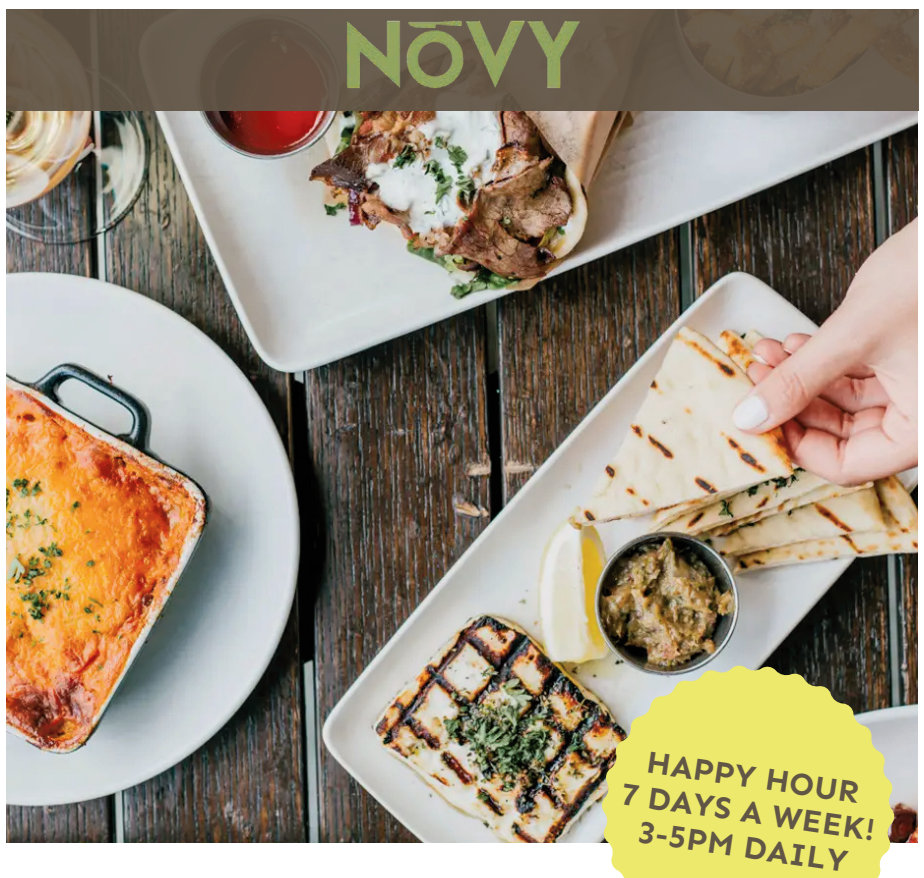
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Conquering Hills. This view south on Grand View (Grandview) from 23rd Street shows the completed retaining wall and ramp to Upper Market Street. None of the near houses in this photo remain. The wall and ramp were demolished in the 1964 straightening of Upper Market. *Photo and information courtesy OpenSFHistory.org / Western Neighborhoods Project / David Gallagher*

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SHORT TAKES

Bingo! It's Friendsgiving

Take a break from Thanksgiving prep (yes, you do need to order that organic turkey early) and trot on over to the Noe Valley Town Square, on Sunday, Nov. 15, from 1 to 3 p.m., for the third annual Noe Valley Friendsgiving.

Get to know your friends and neighbors while playing Neighbor Bingo, crafting a joke at the Dad Joke Table, or writing a note to anyone you fancy at the Thank You Card Writing Table. The Town Square will mail it for you.

Up to a dozen Noe Valley organizations, including the folks from Slow Sanchez, Friends of Noe Valley, the Farmers Market, and our very own Sally Brunn Library, will be there to remind you what friendship and generosity are really all about. Kids can get a head start on holiday decorations at the Craft Table, and everyone is invited to contribute to the Noe Valley Gratitude Tree.

Be sure to show some of that gratitude to Moira Leslie Crawford, master funmaker for the event. You can find her and a list of all Town Square events in the *Voice* Calendar or at noevalleytownsquare.com.

—Kit Cameron

Hark How the Bells

Bell Appeal, the handbell ensemble that is sponsored by Bethany United Methodist Church, is performing in three concerts this holiday season. Or maybe more, if Tinker Bell has her way.

First, on Tuesday, Dec. 1, the group, led by Artistic Director Michele Sharik, will herald the season at the Noe Valley Tree Lighting and Holiday Celebration, at the Noe Valley Town Square, 3861 24th St. The free festivities, scheduled to begin at 5 p.m., will include a light show by the A&B Circus, caroling from the Loosies, balloon animals, cookies from Noe Valley Bakery, and hot chocolate from Martha & Brothers Coffee.

Next, the bell ringers will be special guests of the San Francisco Pride Band in its "Dance Along Nutcracker Show"—this year called "Dance-Along Toy Story"—at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission St., on Saturday, Dec. 19, at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 20, at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. For tickets, go to https://dance-along-nutcracker.sfprideband.org/.

Finally, Bell Appeal will perform live at the traditional Christmas Eve Service at Bethany Church, 1270 Sanchez St., on Thursday, Dec. 24, at 4 p.m.

To learn about these and more holiday events, email BellAppealSF@gmail.com.

—Sally Smith

Spring for Noe Music

Perhaps you were one among hundreds who jammed into the Town Square on four Fridays this fall for the Noe Music in the Square free concert series. Over a couple of months, Noe Music tickled our ears with everyone from Amadeus Mozart to Yacouba Sissoko.

And on Oct. 23, it was the Hot Club of San Francisco that had people grooving to the sounds of European-style jazz inspired by the legendary Django Reinhardt. The overflow crowd danced wherever there was a smidgeon of space. Haystack Pizza and the VIBE food truck fed the joyful masses.

The town square concerts were something of a bet for Noe Music Artistic Directors Owen Dalby and Meena Bhasin. Partnering with the Town Square leadership, along with SF Rec and Park and Noe Valley Merchants & Professionals, they succeeded well beyond their wildest imaginings.

Now, to continue the free concerts in the spring of 2027, they are hoping for a little patronage from sponsors, audience members, and music appreciators.

If you can help support jazz and classical music in a magical outdoor setting, contact Derek Gordon, Noe Music's general manager, at Derek@noemusic.org.

Meanwhile, you might prefer to hear strings in Noe Music's home in the Noe Valley Ministry, at 1021 Sanchez St.

The next opportunity is Nov. 12 to 14, when the NYC–based Dolphins Quartet, composed of cellist Ian Maloney, viola player James Preucil, and violinists Luke Henderson and Isaac Park, comes to town for three Noe Music concerts.

The Dolphins' Well-Being Concert, on Thursday, Nov. 12, at 7:30 p.m., invites the audience to slow down, engage the senses, and relax in a space filled with candles, pillows, and yoga mats. Two days later, on Saturday, Nov. 14, at the Noe Music Kids series, the quartet will play a game of musical tag and ask its young audience to help compose a piece of music during the first show, from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. Then, from noon to 12:45 p.m., the Dolphins will perform a softer and cozier Azure Concert, promising a safe space for members of the autism and neurodiverse community.

Tickets for all three concerts are available at the door or through the Noe Music website (noemusic.org). Tickets for Thursday are $30, with a discount for students and seniors. The Noe Music Kids concert offers $15 tickets for all ages. The Azure Concert is free. Book tickets online to be sure to get a place. For information, call 415-648-5246.

—Kit Cameron

Urban Angels' Wishes

This holiday season, Urban Angels SF is seeking your support for its eighth annual Holiday Wishes program, which donates gifts to families living at or below the poverty level, including those in shelters and low-income residences.

"When family budgets are stretched, a holiday gift can be difficult to afford," says Nelson Barry, founder and president of the 11-year-old organization.

Barry says the easiest way to give is by making a cash donation. "A $35 to $50 donation helps provide a holiday gift. Those who'd prefer to shop can participate in our Adopt a Shelter program, purchasing gifts for as few as one child or organizing a larger group effort."

The nonprofit provides the children's ages, drop-off instructions, and a contact at the shelter, Barry says.

Urban Angels SF moved its headquarters from an office in the Diamond Heights Shopping Center to 870 Market St., Suite 969, in April 2025.

To donate, volunteer, or shop for gifts, go to UrbanAngelsSF.org, or call 415-952-0711. All donations are tax deductible. *—Sally Smith*

Noe Valley Burglaries Lead to 10 Charges

A man accused of burglarizing several Noe Valley homes while residents slept has been arrested after San Francisco police tracked a vehicle allegedly connected to break-ins dating back to September.

Levi Michael Banks, 38, was arrested in the early morning hours of Friday, Oct. 23, and subsequently charged with 10 counts of residential burglary, along with vandalism, possession of stolen property, and theft of access cards and card information, District Attorney Brooke Jenkins announced Oct. 28.

The investigation began Sept. 26, when police received reports of several "hot-prowl" burglaries in Noe Valley. The break-ins occurred between approximately 2:24 a.m. and 9:35 a.m. on the 4100 and 4200 blocks of 24th Street, the 600 block of Elizabeth Street, and the 900 block of Noe Street.

Investigators traced fraudulent purchases made with victims' credit cards to a suspect vehicle, which they subsequently tracked using license-plate-reader data.

The investigation eventually led officers to the 3700 block of Clay Street, where a silent alarm was triggered at approximately 2:23 a.m. Oct. 23. Police spotted the previously identified vehicle and kept it under surveillance. Around 4:30 a.m., Banks returned to the vehicle and was arrested.

Officers searched a nearby passageway on Washington Street, where they found a backpack containing clothing and IDs matching descriptions provided by burglary victims, plus approximately $4,500 in cash.

The alleged burglaries were not confined to Noe Valley. Police also investigated break-ins Oct. 13 at homes on the 2500 block of Fillmore Street and 2200 block of Jackson Street, where more than $64,000 in property was reported stolen. Another burglary was reported Oct. 16 at a multi-unit residence on the 200 block of 12th Avenue.

Banks was arraigned Oct. 27 and ordered detained pending further court proceedings. A preliminary hearing was scheduled for Nov. 9.

The case remains under investigation. Anyone with information is asked to contact the SFPD Tip Line at 415-575-4444 or text TIP411, beginning the message with "SFPD." Anonymous tips are accepted.

—AI assisted

Noe Valley Bakery's Blueberry Pecan Scones

Co-owner Michael Gassen says the Blueberry Pecan Scones are one of Noe Valley Bakery's top-selling items. This recipe makes about 12 scones. You can find a bunch of other recipes—for cakes, cupcakes, cookies, quiche, and even focaccia pizza—at noevalleybakery.com.



Photo by JL Odom

Ingredients

2/3 cup pecans
7 ounces (1-3/4 sticks) cold unsalted butter
2-3/4 cups all-purpose unbleached flour
1/3 cup plus 2 teaspoons granulated sugar
2 teaspoons baking powder
3/4 teaspoon fine sea salt
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
3/4 cup buttermilk
1/2 cup (3 ounces) fresh or frozen blueberries

Instructions

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Line 2 or 3 baking sheets with parchment, and coat lightly with non-stick baking spray.

Cut the butter into 1/2-inch pieces and put in the freezer to harden (about 20 minutes).

Roughly chop the pecans and, in a small pan, toast in the oven for 8 minutes or until golden. Set aside. Increase the oven temperature to 400°F.

In a large bowl, stir the flour, sugar, baking powder, salt, and baking soda until combined. Add the frozen butter pieces and using your fingers, a fork, or a pastry blender break up the butter until it's pea-sized and mixed in with the dry ingredients. Stir in the chopped toasted pecans.

Slowly stir in the buttermilk until the dough is a shaggy mass (you want it to be barely combined with visible streaks of flour).

Sprinkle the blueberries on top of the dough and gently work them in until they're evenly distributed, being careful not to smash them.

Divide the dough and roll into 2-inch balls and place them on the prepared baking sheets 3 inches apart.

Bake the scones for 23 to 25 minutes or until they're golden brown and crispy on top.

Let cool for 10 minutes before removing them from the pans. Store at room temperature in a covered container for up to 2 days. The scones can be reheated in a 300°F oven before serving.

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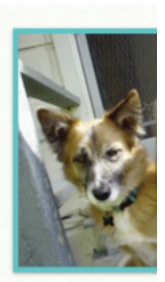
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CALENDAR

Nov. 1-22: The all-virtual 13th annual LEGACY FILM Festival on Aging is on view. legacyfilmfestivalonaging2026.eventive.org

Nov. 1-29: Free Sunday morning YOGA FLOW offers all-level classes; bring water and a mat. 11 am-noon. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

Nov. 1, 8, 22 & 29; Dec. 6 & 13: Get individual MATH tutoring on Tuesdays from student volunteers. 4-5 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

Nov. 2-30: Mamahuhu hosts MAHJONG Mondays from 6 to 9 pm. 3991 24th. 374-7012; eatmamahuhu.com

Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 & Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28: Toddler STORYTIMES are Mondays, 11:15-11:45 am. Tickets 11 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

Nov. 3-25: Tuesday TRIVIA Night at The Dubliner begins at 8 pm. Wed., it's bingo. 3838 24th. 826-826-2279; dublinersf.com

Nov. 3-28: The BAR on Dolores hosts free BINGO for prizes, on Tuesdays, free comedy on Thursdays, and mahjong on Saturdays, 8 pm. 1600 Dolores. 695-1745.

Nov. 5-7: James Lick Middle School performs *A Chorus Line: Teen Edition.* 7 pm; Nov. 7, 1 pm matinee. 1220 Noe. eventbrite.com/d/ca—san-francisco/chorus-line/

Nov. 5, 12, 19 & Dec. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31: Family STORYTIMES are Thursdays, 10:15 am and 11 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

Nov. 6-30: Lola Art Gallery exhibits art, gifts, and work by Sheri Giblin. Reception Nov. 6, 5-7 pm. 1250 Sanchez. 642-4875.

Nov. 6: The monthly self-guided Castro ART WALK features local artists in various neighborhood businesses. 5-8 pm. For a map and list of artists: castroartwalk.com.

Nov. 6-27: The Noe Valley RUN CLUB meets Fridays at Noe Cafe, 1299 Sanchez. 6:45 am for 4 miles, and 7:30 am for 2.5 miles. noevalleyrunclub.square.site

Nov. 6, 13, 20 & Dec. 4, 11, 18: A HEALTHIER LIVING Workshop addresses chronic disease with a management program. 1-3 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

Nov. 7-28: The FARMERS MARKET has fresh produce, food, and music Saturdays, 8 am to 1 pm. Noe Valley Town Square, 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

Nov. 7-28: The Noe WALKS group makes great strides on Saturdays, 10 am, at 24th and Sanchez.

Nov. 8 & Dec. 13: City Guides offers a WALKING TOUR of Noe Valley, starting at 451 Jersey, at 2 pm. Register with City Guides, 375-0468; sfcityguides.org

Nov. 9 & Dec. 14: Drop-in TECH HELP is available at the Noe Valley Library, from 2 to 3 pm. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

Nov. 10: Sign up for open mic POETRY NIGHT 5-minute readings at Noe Valley Books, 3957 24th; noevalleybooks.com

Nov. 11: Santiago Lastra introduces *Mexican Soul: A New Style of Cooking.* 6:30 pm. OMNIVORE Books, 3885 Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com

Nov. 12 & 14: The DOLPHINS QUARTET plays three concerts at Noe Music, including one Nov. 12, 7:30 p.m., and two Noe Kids concerts Nov. 14, one at 10:30 and an Azure Concert at noon. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. See noemusic.org

Nov. 13 & 14 : The Resound Ensemble performs a CONCERT, "Love Is a Place." 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317; resoundensemble.org

Nov. 13-15: St. Aidan's stages the MUSICAL COMEDY *Sunday School* at 7:30 pm Fri. and Sat.; 2 pm on Sun. 101 Gold Mine, 285-9540; staidansf.org

Nov. 14: Chef Aaron discusses "RUSSIAN Culinary Culture in SF," 2-4 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

Nov. 14 : The SF Civic Music Association performs an afternoon of CHAMBER MUSIC. 3-5 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317; sfcivicmusic.org

Nov. 14: Noe Valley Books TRIVIA NIGHT tests your knowledge from 7 to 9 pm. Barebottle Brewing Co, 1525 Cortland. 590-2961; noevalleybooks.com

Nov. 14 & Dec. 12: Rocket DOG RESCUE brings pups to foster, from 1 to 5 pm. When Modern Was, 4001 24th. rocketdogrescue.org

Nov. 15: Join the monthly Noe Valley CLEANUP DAY at the Town Square. Pick up supplies at 10 am. 3861 24th. 3861 24th. Info@RefuseRefuseSF.org

Nov. 15: Cookbook author Sara Calvosa Olson discusses NATIVE CALIFORNIA ingredients. 3-4 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

Nov. 15: The Noe Valley Town Square hosts the third annual FRIENDSGIVING from 1 to 3 pm. Includes a Dad Joke Table, kids crafts, and a Gratitude Tree. 3861 24th.

Nov. 17: ACTION-SF monthly meeting is open to all. 6-7:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey; action-sf.com

Nov. 21: Pets can take free photos with SANTA 11 am to 3 pm at Noe Valley Pet Company, 1451 Church. 282-7385

Nov. 21: Ages 6 and up can make beaded CORN crafts. 2:30-3:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

Nov. 21: The Left Coast CHAMBER Ensemble performs Mozart. 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317; leftcoastchamberensemble.org

Nov. 22: MUSIC in the Square features JimBo Trout bluegrass and rockabilly, 1 to 2 pm, and crystalline vocalist Amy Obenski from 2 to 3 pm. Noe Valley Town Square, 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

Nov. 22: The Manring-Kassin-Burr trio performs a CONCERT at The Back Room in Berkeley, at 3 pm. 1984 Bonita, 510-654-3808; sflive.art

Nov. 23: A live 100-person DO NOTHING performance will be filmed at Heron Arts, 7 Heron St., from 10 am to 1 pm. sfarts.org

Nov. 28: The PUPPET Company performs a free version of the Nutcracker "Sweet." 2 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317; thesfco.org

Nov. 29: NOE MUSIC hosts an appearance by pianist Jeremy Denk playing Bach, Chin, and Beethoven. 4 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. noemusic.org

Nov. 30: Susan Spungen discusses her book *Cookie Queen.* 6:30 pm. OMNIVORE Books, 3885 Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com

Nov. 30: The Castro TREE-lighting ceremony lights up the B of A Plaza, 501 Castro, 6 to 6:30 pm. castromerchants.com

Dec. 1: Celebrate Noe Valley's TREE LIGHTING at the Town Square with hot chocolate, dancing, and cookies, 5 to 7 pm. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

Dec. 3: Take the Noe Valley Winter WINE WALK. 4:30 to 7:30 pm. 3861 24th. noevalleymerchants.com

Dec. 3: Melissa Clark introduces *The Big Book of Dinner.* 6:30 pm. OMNIVORE Books, 3885 Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; omnivorebooks.com

Dec. 4: A LABYRINTH service at Bethany UMC runs from 7 to 8 pm. 1270 Sanchez. 647-8393; bethanysf.org

Dec. 5: The library KNITTING Circle meets from 10 am to noon. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

Dec. 6: CHANUKAH Wonderland with a menorah lighting at the Noe Valley Town Square runs from 3:30 to 5:30 pm. 3861 24th. noevalleytownsquare.com

Dec. 8: A Noe Valley NIGHT MARKET has holiday vendors, food, and music, 4:30 to 7:30 pm. 3861 24th. noemerchants.com

Dec. 8: Family Board Game and LEGO NIGHT is 6 to 7:30 p.m. Noe Valley Library. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

Turkey Trot: The next *Voice* Calendar will be in the **December 2026** issue. Noe Valley events receive priority. The deadline for calendar items is **Nov. 20.** Email **calendar@noevalleyvoice.com.**

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UPPER NOE RECREATION CENTER



Upper Noe windows are glowing to bring cheer as night falls in winter. The gym is available for rental after hours and on days when the rec center is closed. Got a group interested in basketball? Call 415-970-8061. *Photo courtesy David Emanuel*

Perfect Weather to Shoot Hoops

Over 500 people of all ages came out on a beautiful Saturday, Sept. 26, at Upper Noe Rec Center to enjoy music, dance, food, and good company.

Meanwhile, **Fall Session** continued with lots of fun activities. Check out the 2026 **Fall Daily Schedule** at Upper Noe (295 Day St.) on this page, view the full Rec & Park Fall Catalog online, or learn how to register at https://uppernoerecreationcenter.com/.

Drop-in classes like **Pickleball** and **Zumba** and anytime activities like **Ping Pong** welcome players as the mood strikes them. Call or go to the office to borrow equipment (415-970-8061).

Are you interested in **gardening** at the park? Rec & Park is looking to support a volunteer group to help keep the flower beds, gardens, and borders flourishing. Email info@uppernoerecreationcenter.com to find out more.

Friends of Upper Noe Recreation Center is the stewardship group for the park. You can get information on joining at www.uppernoerecreationcenter.com.

Also, if you see something out of whack on the field, in the gym, or in the children's playground, please speak up. Contact the office or call San Francisco Customer Service **(3-1-1)** to let them know what needs fixing.

—Chris Faust, Friends of Upper Noe Recreation Center

Upper Noe Rec Center Fall Session (Sept. 1 to Dec. 19, 2026)

Rec Center Hours, 295 Day St.: Mon., camp only; Tues. to Fri., 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sat., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sun. closed (outside activities only)
Park Grounds: Daily, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Ping Pong drop-in (ages 6+) free: Tues. to Fri., 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Tuesdays
9 to 10 a.m. Zumba with Moira outside on the blacktop. Free and open to all. Just join in.
9 to 11:30 a.m. A Place to Play (ages 6 mos to 5 yrs)
9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Drop-In Adult Pickleball (18+)
12 to 1 p.m. Pilates (18+)
1:30 to 2:45 p.m. Strength & Flexibility (18+)
2 to 4 p.m. Open Basketball (17 and under)
4 to 6 p.m. Women's Basketball (18+)
6 to 7 p.m. Tennis Beginning (ages 8-9)
6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Yoga (18+)
6 to 8:45 p.m. Open Basketball (18+)
7 to 8 p.m. Tennis—Beginning/Intermediate (18+)

Wednesdays
9 to 11:30 a.m. A Place to Play (ages 6 mos to 5 yrs)
12 to 1 p.m. Feldenkrais (18+)
2 to 5 p.m. Open Basketball (17 and under)
4 to 5 p.m. Karate Kidz—Little Kickers (ages 8-10)
5 to 6 p.m. Karate Kidz (ages 9-12)
6 to 9 p.m. Advanced Volleyball League (18+)

Thursdays
9 to 11:30 a.m. A Place to Play (ages 6 mos to 5 yrs)
9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Drop-In Adult Pickleball (18+)
12 to 1 p.m. Pilates (18+)
1:30 to 2:45 p.m. Strength & Flexibility (18+)
2 to 4 p.m. Open Basketball (17 and under)
4 to 5 p.m. Petite Bakers (ages 3-5)
4 to 6 p.m. Women's Basketball (18+)
4:15 to 5:15 p.m. Girls' Flag Football Junior Division—Upper Noe Team (ages 8-10)
5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Girls' Flag Football Senior Division—Upper Noe Team (ages 11-14)
6 to 8:45 p.m. Open Basketball (18+)
6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Yoga (18+)

Fridays
9 to 10 a.m. Zumba with Moira outside on the blacktop. Free and open to all. Just join in.
9 to 11:30 a.m. A Place to Play (ages 6 mos to 5 yrs)
10 to 11 a.m. Futsal for Tots (ages 3-5)
12 to 2 p.m. Open Basketball (18+)
2 to 4 p.m. Open Basketball (17 and under)
4:15 to 5:15 p.m. Volleyball—Upper Noe Team (ages 8-10)
4:30 to 5:30 p.m. SFFBL (Flag Football)—Junior Division—Upper Noe Team (co-ed ages 8-10)
5:30 to 6:30 p.m. SFFBL (Flag Football)—Senior Division—Upper Noe Team (co-ed ages 11-13)
5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Girls' Volleyball—Upper Noe Team (ages 12-14)
6 to 7 p.m. Tennis—Beginning (ages 8-10)
6:30 to 8:45 p.m. Tween/Women's Volleyball (11+)
7 to 8 p.m. Tennis—Beginning/Intermediate (18+)

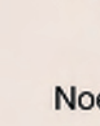
Saturdays
9 to 11:30 p.m. Open Basketball (all ages)
9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Zumba (family, all ages)— Play Pass fee $5. For up-to-date information on Zumba classes, please visit www.sfrecpark.org/zumba
11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. A Place to Play (ages 6 mos to 5 yrs)
3 to 4 p.m. Coed Wrestling—Camp Grapple (ages 7-13)

What's in Your Quake Kit?

By Sally Smith / Illustrations by Karol Barske

We managed to get through the summer in fairly good shape. But it never hurts to be prepared for the next earthquake, fire, or medical emergency. Consider what you might need to live for a week without water or electricity. Below are some things you might put in your quake kit or "Go Bag," as suggested by the San Francisco Fire Department's **Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT).**

NERT holds community-based training programs in basic preparedness and disaster response skills. To find out more, go to the SF-fire.org/NERT website or call 415-970-2024 (the NERT class hotline).



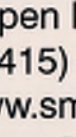
Water: One gallon per person to last 3 to 5 days. (Use bleach to purify it, 2 to 4 drops per quart.)

Food for 3 to 5 days, such as canned or dried soups, beans, juice.

Cooking Supplies: A grill or camp stove, utensils, matches, can opener, foil, plastic wrap, garbage bags.

Clothing: Light and heavy layers for all, stored to stay dry. Include a pair of shoes and gloves.

Safety: Flashlight, radio, batteries, rope, knife, scissors, fire extinguisher, wrench to shut off utilities.



Supplies such as cash, house or car keys, pencil and paper, i.d. cards, insurance info, maps.

Hygiene: Waterless soap, toilet paper, shampoo, toothbrush, sanitary supplies.



Special items for children, the elderly, or people with disabilities.

Shelter: Tent, sleeping bags.

Medical: First-aid kit, medications, KN95 masks, extra pair of glasses.



Pet Supplies, such as food, water, leash, medications, and carrier.

Checklist for the 'Go Bag'

Keep a "go bag" at home or work or in your vehicle.

- ☐ Sturdy shoes
- ☐ Flashlight, whistle
- ☐ Glasses
- ☐ Crank or battery radio
- ☐ Food, water
- ☐ Cash ($100 in small bills)
- ☐ Basic first-aid, medications
- ☐ Change of clothes
- ☐ Toilet paper, hand sanitizer
- ☐ Big trash bag, mylar blanket
- ☐ Copy of driver's license
- ☐ Paper, pencil, family or pet photos, important documents

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Noe Valley Family owned and operated for 42 Years!
Visit us at 3985 24th Street
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Open Every Day!
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Returning to our 1984-2018 Home
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MAY 1977 FREE

The NOE Valley Voice

24th STREET IS A GREAT PLACE TO DO ANYTHING

We Begin

BY DAVID SNYDER

If you live in Noe Valley, no matter if you moved here yesterday or 30 years ago, you probably have wondered what makes this area so remarkably unique. Most residents consider Noe Valley a "dream realized" neighborhood after having lived elsewhere in highly touted, so-called communities. Residents here actually care for and take an interest in the lives and concerns of each other. There is a pride in the neighborhood and its neighbors.

NOE VALLEY. WHAT IS IT? WHY DO WE LIVE HERE? WHO ARE WE?

Noe Valley does not have a homogeneous population; in fact we are a microcosm of the City. We are the professionals, the shopkeepers, the artists, the laborers, the politicians, and a diverse mixture of ages, colors and life styles. Perhaps this is why Noe Valley is unique in a city whose hallmark is the expression of individuality. Noe Valley is, and will remain to be, primarily a long term residential community. We are a population with dreams, opinions, ideas, creativity, and concerns. We are a community struggling with change,yet we are highly stable.

Idle Chatter:

"Wouldn't it be great if we had a newspaper-a forum to express our beliefs, to explore our history?"

Too often ideas of this sort are unrealized. This time the idea has become concrete. The NOE VALLEY VOICE is born.

Noe Valley, we have discovered, is the home of many talented writers and artists waiting for a medium to present their work. This issue was conceived and produced in less than a month. Our advertisers have all responded with excitement at the opportunity to advertise their shops and services in a paper geared to the local needs.

Articles planned for future issues include a multi-part history of Noe Valley, District 5 politics, the high cost of home buying, crime, reviews of shops, restaurants and services, sports and activities, interviews with residents who are significant to the history and development of the area, a multi-part article on the business associations, and a community open forum.

This paper is conceived as a Community forum to meet the needs of our neighborhood. Our objectives are fourfold:

1) To provide news and information on the businesses, services, and individuals in Noe Valley.

2) To document our history in an area individual and integral to the city of San Francisco.

3) To provide a forum for the residents of Noe Valley to express their opinions of what the neighborhood could and should be.

4) To provide a medium for poets, writers and artists to publish their work.

If we are to continue this effort we need your help. We need your interests and opinions in the form of articles, statements, stories, poems, drawings and photographs. We need your financial support in the form of advertising and contributions. We believe that Noe Valley is capable of supporting a community newspaper. That is why we have come this far. To date,the response has been nothing but encouraging.

In order for the Noe Valley Voice to become a responsive community newspaper, we need your ideas and articles. In our second issue we will begin the Community Crosstalk column. Community Crosstalk will be an open dialogue to present your stand on any of the issues relevant to developing or protecting lifestyles.

We intend to continue free distribution of this paper. This issue has been partially financed by advertisers with the balance paid for by the staff. We sincerely hope that you will agree with us that the Noe Valley Voice is a viable adventure and will join us.

Our advertising rates are nominal. Our anticipated circulation is 3000 copies which will be distributed primarily in Noe Valley and the rest of District Five. Discounts will be given for both pre-payment and multi-issue contracts.

These are our beginnings. We are proud of this issue and look forward to serving the needs of our neighborhood and the individuals living here. We hope that you enjoy our maiden effort and provide feedback on how we can better suit your needs and be more responsive to the community.

City Curbs Business On 24th Street

BY COREY MICHAELS

William Murphy, a one-time tough nose San Francisco cop who turned in his badge for a doctorate, was cruising the second floor of City Hall waiting for the chance to use his courtroom histrionics against those Noe Valley anti-business upstarts. Murphy was born and grew up in Noe Valley. He hadn't lived in Noe Valley for 23 years, but he still owned the property that's leased to the Finnegan's Wake watering hole, and he wasn't going to let any change in the zoning laws hurt his moneymaker without a helluva good fight.

There were a hundred or so other people waiting to testify on a proposal before the Planning Commission that would control the growth of new business on 24th street. All they could do was mill around, discussing the proposal, because the planning commission was running later than the J Church. The more Murphy waited, the more he found himself being swayed by the arguments in favor of the proposal. By the time the public hearing got underway two and one-half hours late, Murphy was firmly in the "enemies" camp.

"I was talking to my childhood chums, who are still living in Noe Valley", Murphy said. "They want Noe Valley to remain stable. They don't want the noise and pollution and the traffic jams." What they don't want is for the 24th Street strip to become Union Street.

Those upstarts that initially scared Murphy were the Noe Valley Neighbors for Actions, Friends of Noe Valley, and the East and West of Castro Improvement Association. In February, they had petitioned the Planning Commission for a downzoning reclassification that would slow the rapid growth of shops swarming into the area. Without the change, Noe Valley would lose its unique neighborhood character.

Twenty-fourth street is a blend of ground floor bars, restaurants, groceries, and specialized, neighborhood oriented shops. The second and third floors of the buildings are residential apartments.

The Valley's uniqueness poses a paradox. The area currently is zoned C-2, which allows a wide range of

Continued on Page 7

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MORE BOOKS TO READ

Be Thankful...

For the many San Francisco libraries, and for the treasures they offer—including the list of new titles on this page, which comes to the *Voice* courtesy of librarians Madeleine Felder, Cristal Fiel, and Amy Lewis of the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library. (*Voice* bookworm Karol Barske writes the actual blurbs.)

If, heaven forbid, you run out of readables, visit sfpl.org online or walk to the branch at 451 Jersey St.

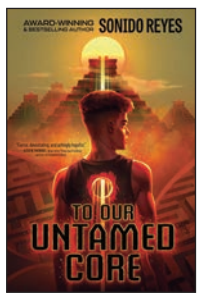
To put items on hold, go to the website or get the library's mobile app at https://sfpl.org/services/mobile-resources/library-catalog-mobile-apps/.

If you have a question for Felder, Fiel, or Lewis, call 415-355-5707.

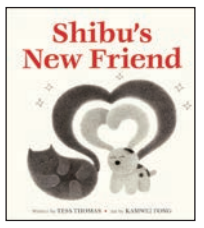
Please note: All city libraries will be closed on Wednesday, Nov. 11, for Veterans Day, and on Thursday, Nov. 26, and Friday, Nov. 27, for Thanksgiving.

—Sally Smith, Ed.

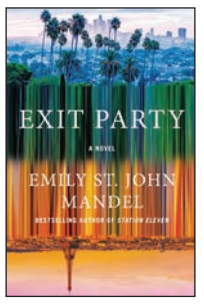












CHILDREN'S FICTION

Zara learns that riding a bicycle takes work, in ***Butterflies Do Not Ride Their Bikes,*** written by Ali Rutstein, illustrated by Nina Nill. Ages 3-6.

"You can do anything if you work together" is the message of ***Unicorns in Uniforms*** by Beth Ferry, with illustrations by A.N. Kang. Ages 4-8.

Sydney gets stuck in a time loop during a sleepover at a wildlife center, in ***The Replay Trap*** by Juliana Brandt. Ages 8-12.

In ***Serpent on the Mountain*** by J. Kasper Kramer, 11-year-old Delilah encounters a church that handles venomous snakes. Ages 8-12+

CHILDREN'S NONFICTION

In ***We the People Is All the People,*** author Howard W. Reeves explains the meaning of the U.S. Constitution; illustrations by Duncan Tonatiuh. Ages 4-8.

Mighty Models: The Legendary Life Story of the Cogwheel, by Christine Van Zandt with illustrations by Karen Crosbie, brings the inner workings of a clock into focus. Ages 4-8.

More than 100 structures from around the world are featured in ***Reaching Across the Sky: A Celebration of Bridges*** by Christy Hale. Ages 5-10.

The picture book ***Unbreakable: A Japanese American Family in an American Incarceration Camp*** is by Minoru Tonai and Jolene Gutierrez; illustrated by Chris Sasaki. Ages 6-9.

CHILDREN'S EBOOKS

An earthworm stops to think, when a field mouse asks, "Why?" in ***Carl and the Meaning of Life*** by Deborah Freedman. Ages 3-5.

Dog Shibu and cat Dottie examine their relationship in ***Shibu's New Friend*** by Tess Thomas, illustrated by Kamwei Fong. Ages 4-8.

When her twin disappears, Tessa discovers that books can open portals, in ***Building 903*** by Lois Lowry. Ages 8-12.

A Raven of the Rainforest is the latest in the Voice of the Wilderness series by Rosanne Parry, with illustrations by Howard Gray. Ages 8-12.

TEEN FICTION

Ama Ofosua Lieb paints a picture of an "Afrofuturist" San Francisco in ***Goldenborn.*** Ages 12-18.

Soundtrack by Jason Reynolds follows an all-Black punk band in New York City. Ages 12-18.

A "has-been" child actor becomes a stand-up comedian in ***Ambrosia Lee Drops the Mic*** by Patricia Park. Ages 14-18.

Cindy Pham's ***The Secret World of Briar Rose*** is a queer retelling of the Sleeping Beauty story. Ages 14 and up.

TEEN NONFICTION

Author Germán Aczel's ***The Illustrated History of Soccer World Cup 1930-2026*** relives the sport's greatest moments. Ages 8 and up.

Kristina Wong presents ideas for dealing with racism, in ***Auntie Kristina's Guide to Asian American Activism.*** Ages 10-14.

In ***The Healers of Harlem: The Black Women Who Changed Medicine Forever,*** Nina Chhita spotlights four healthcare pioneers. Ages 13-18.

The Best 392 Colleges, 2027, by Robert Franek and the *Princeton Review,* offers rankings and profiles. Ages 16 and up.

TEEN EBOOKS

Pining for You by Stef Ferrari is a holiday romance set at a Christmas tree farm. Ages 12 and up.

Siblings face danger while hiking in the Cascades of Oregon in ***Three Sisters*** by David Macinnis Gill. Ages 12-16.

In ***Our Dark Unraveling*** by Margot McGovern, a student's ghost appears on campus after a freak accident. Ages 14-18.

In Sonido Reyes' thriller ***To Our Untamed Core,*** a trans teen contemplates a fight-to-the-death tournament to save his boyfriend's life. Ages 13 and up.

ADULT FICTION

Pulitzer Prize winner Hernan Diaz envisions a near future where the state no longer exists, in ***Ply: A Novel.***

After an accident, a writer has a spiritual awakening that he can't distinguish from madness, in ***The Radiance*** by award-winning playwright Ayad Akhtar.

In ***Switzy*** by Emma Cline, a retired executive's mind starts to slowly unravel.

The Weight of Angels by John Boyne imagines an Oscar Wilde who in the 1890s chooses not to sue the bigoted Marquess of Queensberry.

ADULT NONFICTION

Doireann Ni Ghriofa researches the inhabitants of a mental asylum in Cork, Ireland, in ***Said the Dead.***

Frank Ashwood examines ***The World Beneath Our Feet: The Hidden Life of Soil and Why It Matters to Us All.***

In ***53 Days: How Hitler Dismantled a Democracy,*** Timothy W. Ryback traces the swift rise to power of the Nazis in the 1930s.

Jason W. Miller tells how two civil rights icons joined forces in ***Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood: Nina Simone, Langston Hughes, and the Birth of Black Power.***

In ***How Bright the Path Grows: The Untold Story of the Women Who Made the March on Washington,*** Marcia Chatelain describes the role of Black women in the 1963 event.

ADULT EBOOKS

Eight gay Jamaican actors deal with the aftermath of a savage attack, in ***The Disappearers*** by Marlon James.

Naomi Klein investigates the apocalyptic thinking of Christian nationalists, in ***End Times Fascism: And the Fight for the Living World.***

In ***Exit Party*** by Emily St. John Mandel, the curfews are lifted in L.A. after the collapse of the United States in early spring 2031.

ADULT DVDS / BLURAY

Michael Russell Gunn's ***The Brink of War*** (2026) is a docudrama starring Jeff Daniels as President Ronald Reagan and Jared Harris as Communist Party General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev during an intense weekend in October 1986.

Hadestown: The Musical (2026), based on the Orpheus/Eurydice myth, is directed by Brett Sullivan and features Reeve Carney, André De Shields, and Amber Gray.

In Will Gluck's romantic comedy ***One Night Only*** (2026), Callum Turner and Monica Barbaro star as two New Yorkers searching for love the one night it's legal.

Annotations by Karol Barske

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Left High and Dry by Michael Blake

A	P	R	S	■	S	H	U	T	S	■	A	P	P	S
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LIBRARY EVENTS

All events take place at the Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey St., and are drop-in unless otherwise noted. Be aware events are first come, first served. For information, visit sfpl.org or call the Noe Valley branch at 415-355-5707.

Student volunteers from the Engage Tutoring Program offer **Math Tutoring,** for ages 6 to 17, on Sundays, Nov. 1, 8, 22, 29 & Dec. 6 and 13, from 3 to 4 p.m.

Toddler Storytimes are Mondays, Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 & Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28, from 11:15 to 11:45 a.m. Tickets are available starting at 11 a.m. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

Middle-schoolers and teens can bring projects to **Homework Hangout,** Tuesdays, Nov. 2 & Dec. 7, from 3:30 to 5 p.m.

Family Storytimes are Thursdays, Nov. 5, 12, 19 & Dec. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, at 10:15 and 11 a.m. Tickets are available at 10 and 10:30 a.m. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; sfpl.org

Healthier Living, an On Lok workshop in disease self-management for older adults, runs Fridays, Nov. 6, 13, 20 & Dec. 4, 11, 18, from 1 to 3 p.m. For information, call 415-355-5707 or see workshops@onlok.org.

The **SF City Guides Walking Tour** "Noe Valley: A Village Within the City" explores historic homes in the neighborhood Sundays, Nov. 8 and Dec. 13, from 2 to 4 p.m. Registration required: 375-0468 (City Guides).

Drop-in Tech Help is available on Mondays, Nov. 9 and Dec. 14, 2 to 3 p.m.

Family Board Game and LEGO Night happens on Tuesdays, Nov. 10 and Dec. 8, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Chef Aaron presents "**Russian** Culinary Culture in San Francisco," on Saturday, Nov. 14, 2 to 4 p.m. Space is limited.

Cookbook author Sara Calvosa Olson discusses **Native California** foods and recipes, on Sunday, Nov. 15, 3 to 4 p.m. Space is limited; first come, first served.

The **Alone Together Book Club** (ages 10 to 18) meets on third Mondays, Nov. 16, from 4 to 5 p.m.

The Noe Valley **Short Stack** Book Club discusses *Vera, or Faith,* a novel by Gary Shteyngart, on Friday, Nov. 20, from 3 to 4 p.m. Copies are held at the circulation desk for checkout.

Ages 6 and up can make a **beaded corn** craft, on Saturday, Nov. 21, from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

The **Knitting Circle** meets on Saturday, Dec. 5, from 10 a.m. to noon.

The next **Pajama Storytime** for families happens on Tuesday, Dec. 29, from 6:30 to 7 p.m.

BRANCH HOURS

Noe Valley/Sally Brunn Branch Library
451 Jersey St., 415-355-5707

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1-5	11-6	10-8	12-8	10-6	1-6	10-6

Mission Branch Library
1234 Valencia St., 355-2800

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1-5	10-6	10-8	10-8	10-8	1-6	10-6

Glen Park Branch Library
2825 Diamond St., 355-2858

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1-5	10-6	10-6	12-8	10-7	1-6	10-6

Eureka Valley–Harvey Milk Branch Library
1 José Sarria Ct. (3555 16th St.), 355-5616

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1-5	10-6	10-8	10-8	10-6	1-6	10-6



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Action SF, the National Movement in Your Neighborhood
https://m.facebook.com/ActionSFactivism/
Website: http://www.action-sf.com/
Email: ActionSFTeam@gmail.com
Meetings: Usually Third Tuesdays (email actionsfsolidarity@gmail.com for zoom link), Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey, 6-7:30 p.m. Nov. 17 hybrid meeting open to all.

Al-Anon Noe Valley
Contact: 834-9940; office@al-anonsf.org
Meetings: Wednesdays, 7:30-9 p.m., St. Philip Church, 725 Diamond St. (park on Elizabeth Street side; enter on 24th Street). Thursdays, 7:15-8:30 p.m. Bethany UMC, 1270 Sanchez St. (enter through Clipper Street side door and go up the stairs)

Castro Merchants
Contacts: Terry Asten Bennett, President;
Address: 584 Castro St. #333, SF, CA 94114
Email: info@CastroMerchants.com

Comerford Greenway
Contact: Howard Fallon
Email: ComerfordGreenway@gmail.com
Website: https://greeningprojects.org/comerford-greenway/
Quarterly workdays in Comerford Alley.

Diamond Heights Community Association
Contact: Betsy Eddy, 867-5774
Address: P.O. Box 31529, SF, CA 94131
Website: www.dhcasf.org. Meetings: Second Thursday, 7 p.m. Call for location.

Dolores Heights Improvement Club
Email: info@doloresheights.org
Website: www.doloresheights.org
Meetings: Third Thursday of every second month. Bank of America, 18th and Castro.

Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)
Contacts: Diane McCarney, 824-0303; or Lily Wu, 793-1749.
Address: 590 Duncan St., SF, CA 94131.
Meetings: Call for details.

Eureka Valley Neighborhood Assn.
Contact: Board@evna.org
Address: P.O. Box 14137, SF, CA 94114
Meetings: See website Events. Castro Meeting Room, 501 Castro St., 7 p.m.

MORE GROUPS TO JOIN

Fair Oaks Neighbors
Email: hello@fairoaksneighbors.org
Address: 200 Fair Oaks St., SF, CA 94110
The Fair Oaks Street Fair is traditionally held the day before Mother's Day.

Friends of Dolores Park Playground
Contact: Nancy Gonzalez Madynski, 828-5772
Email: friendsofdolorespark@gmail.com
Website: friendsofdolorespark.org

Friends of Christopher Park
Contact: Brynna McNulty, 818-744-4230
Email: friendsofchristopherpark@gmail.com
Website: FriendsofChristopherPark.org

Friends of Glen Canyon Park
Contact: Jean Conner, 584-8576
Address: 140 Turquoise Way, SF, CA 94131
Plant restoration work parties, Wednesday mornings and third Saturday of the month.

Friends of Noe Courts Playground
Contact: Laura Norman
Email: noecourts@gmail.com
Address: P.O. Box 460953, SF, CA 94146
Meetings: Email for dates and times.

Friends of Noe Valley (FNV)
Contact: Todd David, 401-0625
Email: info@friendsofnoevalley.com
Website: friendsofnoevalley.com
Meetings: Two or three annually.

Friends of Slow Sanchez
Contacts: B.R. Demko, Dana Rosenberg, Christopher Keene, Andrew Casteel
Email: info@SlowSanchez.com
Website: SlowSanchez.com

Friends of Upper Noe Recreation Center
Contact: Chris Faust
Email: info@uppernoerecreationcenter.com
Website: uppernoerecreationcenter.com
Meetings: Email or check website.

Friends of Upper Noe Dog Owners Group (FUNDOG)
Contact: David Emanuel, info@fundogsf.org
Website: www.fundogsf.org

Glen Park Association
Contact: info@glenparkassociation.org
Website: glenparkassociation.org
Address: P.O. Box 31292, SF, CA 94131

Juri Commoners
Contact: Dave Schweisguth, MI7-6290
Email: dave@schweisguth.org
Website: meetup.com/Juri-Commoners
The group is on hiatus and seeking a new leader. Call Dave. "Tidy up when you can."

Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association
Contact: Dr. Lisa Fromer, president
Email: efromer3@gmail.com
Meetings: Quarterly. Email for details.

Noe Neighborhood Council
Contact: Ozzie Rohm or Matt McCabe
Email: info@noeneighborhoodcouncil.com
Website: noeneighborhoodcouncil.com
Meetings: Quarterly at Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey St.

Noe Valley Association–24th Street Community Benefit District
Contact: Debra Niemann, 519-0093
Dispatch: To report spills or debris on 24th Street, call Billy Dinnell, 802-4461.
Email: info@noevalleyassociation.org.
Website: noevalleyassociation.org
Board meetings: Quarterly. See website.

Noe Valley Democratic Club
Contact: Sam Maslin, President
E-mail: noevalleydemocrats@gmail.com
Website: www.noevalleydemocrats.org
Meetings: Monthly at Valley Tavern or Tacolicious, dates publicized on website.

Noe Valley Farmers Market
Open Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.; 3861 24th St. between Vicksburg and Sanchez
Contact: Leslie Crawford, 248-1332
Email: info@noevalleyfarmersmarket.com

Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association (NVMPA)
Contact: Kristen McCaffery, President, Kristen@novysf@gmail.com, 829-8383; or Kathryn Gianaras, Vice President, Kathryn@novysf@gmail.com
Meetings: 9 a.m. Call to confirm location.
Website: https.noemerchants.com
www.NoeValleyMerchants.com

Noe Valley Parent Network
An e-mail resource network for parents
Contact: Mina Kenvin
Email: minaken@gmail.com
noevalleyparentsubscribe@yahoogroups.com

Noe Valley Run Club
Meets Fridays 6:45 a.m. for 4-mile run; 7:30 a.m. for 2.5-mile, 26th and Sanchez.
https://www.instagram.com/noevalleyrunclub?igsh=NTc4MTIwNjQ2YQ==

Noe Walks
Contact: Chris Nanda
Email: christopher.n.nanda@gmail.com
Website: NoeWalks.com
Meetings: Saturdays, 10 a.m. Starts 24th and Sanchez. Ends Noe and Duncan for photo.

Progress Noe Valley
Facebook: ProgressNoeValley
Email: progressnoe@gmail.com
Website: progressnoe.com
Meetings: Check Facebook page for current meeting and event schedule.

San Francisco NERT (Neighborhood Emergency Response Team)
Contact: Noe Valley NERT Neighborhood Team co-coordinators Maxine Fasulis, mfasulis@yahoo.com; Carole Roberts, carole_roberts@faludi.com
Website: https://SF-fire.org/nert
Visit the website to sign up for trainings.

Upper Noe Merchants
Contact: Info@UpperNoeNeighbors.com;
https://uppernoeneighbors.com/merchants/

Upper Noe Neighbors
Contact: Chris Faust
Email: Hello@UpperNoeNeighbors.com
Website: www.uppernoeneighbors.com
Meetings: Bi-monthly on third Wednesdays. Confirm by email or check website.

THE NOE VALLEY VOICE
editor@noevalleyvoice.com
All phone numbers are in the 415 area code, unless otherwise noted.

GRATEFUL



This Thanksgiving, I'm thankful for the people who trusted me with their biggest move, and for the neighbors who make this city feel like home. Whether you're buying selling or just curious about your next chapter, I'd be honored to help. Wishing you a warm, happy Thanksgiving.

-Claudia

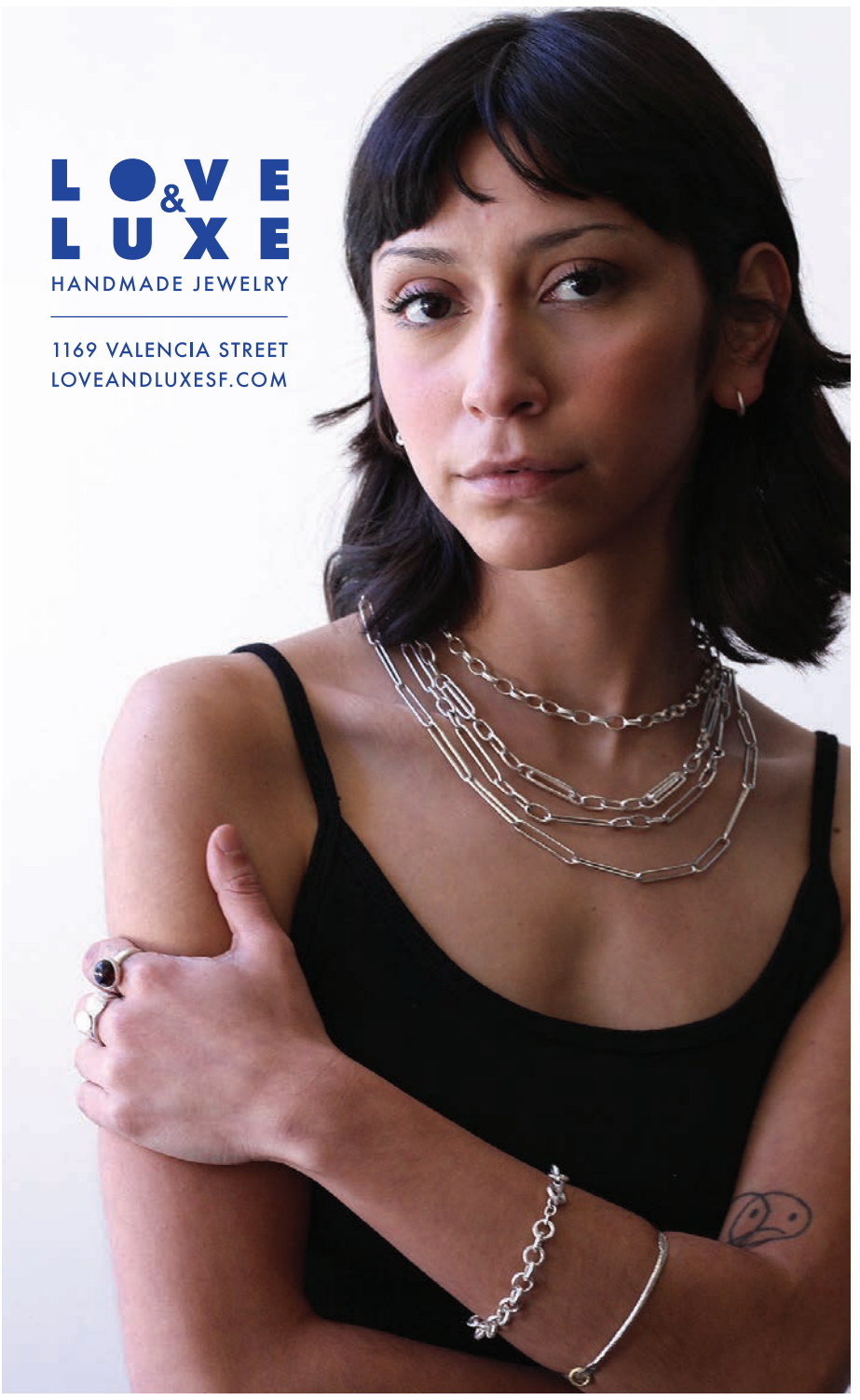
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and now for the
RUMORS
behind the news

Ready…Set…Holidays

By Mazook

MOVIN' RIGHT ALONG: Every year, when November rolls around, I can't help but think about the holidays we've celebrated—Halloween, Day of the Dead, Valkyries—and the next three or four that are on the way. Front and center is Veterans Day.

Veterans Day used to be known as Armistice Day. It celebrated the armistice signed on Nov. 11, 1918, ending World War I, the "War to End All Wars." The Armistice ended the fighting on land, at sea, and in the air between the Allied and Associated Powers (including the U.S.) and their last remaining opponent, Germany. The document was signed in a railroad car in the Compiègne Forest near the town of Compiègne, France.

I remember these details because of a veteran I would run into on 24th Street whose name was "Frenchy."

Joseph "Frenchy" LeCours (1901-1985) was famous in Noe Valley because he was the driver of a vehicle that carried American General John J. "Black Jack" Pershing, who commanded the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) during the war. LeCours, a native of Canada, told me he had volunteered for the U.S. Army, and when they found out he was fluent in French, he was assigned to serve with Pershing in the war. The vehicle he drove, by the way, was a special model Locomobile developed for Pershing and his staff.

Frenchy was truly a charming character with lots of war stories to tell. I wrote at length about him in the November 1981 issue of the *Noe Valley Voice*. Forty-five years ago. Seems like yesterday.

☎ ☎ ☎

FUNKY TOWN SQUARE: On Saturday evening, Oct. 24, the Noe Valley Town Square celebrated its 10th anniversary, and the Noe Valley Association marked its 20th anniversary, with a huge disco party. The night was also a sendoff for Rafael Mandelman, as he wraps up his final term as District 8 supervisor. There was a live DJ and a flash mob demonstration, and folks joined in, dancing up a storm.

Lighting up the night were the brand new multicolored lights strung above everyone's heads, funded for the Town Square by a grant from the Avenue Greenlight Foundation. There was a huge red velvet birthday cake from Noe Valley Bakery for everyone in attendance.

The master of ceremonies was former District 8 Supervisor, now California State Senator, and candidate for House of Representatives Scott Wiener.

At his side was San Francisco Mayor Daniel Lurie, who proclaimed the Town Square "fantastic" and acknowledged how it came to be.

Wiener then introduced several Noe Valley luminaries, including Noe Valley Association Board Chair Debra Niemann; our representative on the San Francisco Council of District Merchants, Carol Yenne; and the Town Square's manager and events coordinator, Leslie Crawford.

Standing with them were three Noe Valleyans who also helped pave the way for the Town Square: Supervisor Bevan Dufty, local activist Todd David, and local hero and Slow Sanchez booster Chris Keene. Remembered by all was longtime resident (and friend) Peter Gabel, who tirelessly worked to help grow the Farmers Market and Square back in the early 2000s. Gabel is memorialized in the bronze plaque embedded in front of the square.

☎ ☎ ☎

GATHERING NO MOSS: About 100 people came to see Ben Fong-Torres and Bonnie Hayes at the Noe Valley Ministry on the evening of Oct. 22.

Ben resides on Castro Street in Noe Valley (for the past 40 years). We both grew up in Oakland and were classmates at Westlake Junior High and Oakland High School, and we both moved to Noe Valley about the same time. He became famous as editor of *Rolling Stone* magazine, and he was a disc jockey at KSAN Radio and a writer in the pink section of the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

I couldn't miss this event, which was sponsored by Blue Bear School of Music.

Fong-Torres began by giving us his bio, starting in Oakland. Interestingly, he looked up at the ceiling and said, "This is my first time in church."

Musician and songwriter Hayes was interviewer. Said Fong-Torres, "We never met before this evening, except for one rehearsal."

Fong-Torres continued: "Kurt Huget is my longtime guitarist. A former program director at Bread & Roses, he has several CDs out, and has worked with me for maybe 20 years, playing for Bread & Roses shows at On Lok senior centers, at the Broadcast Legends' holiday luncheons and elsewhere."

Later in the show, Rachel Garlin joined in. She's a singer/songwriter who lives in Noe Valley.

Said Fong-Torres: "I met her at the start of the coronavirus shutdown, when she performed in front of her home [on Church Street] for neighbors and passers-by. She recently showcased her song cycle *The Ballad of Madeline and Therese* at the Noe Valley Ministry."

Some of the songs Fong-Torres sang were "Hey Jackie," "Don't Be Cruel," "Can't Help Falling in Love," "Like a Rolling Stone," "Memories Are Made of This," and "Get Together."

This was the first time Fong-Torres had performed in Noe Valley.

It was a great evening.

☎ ☎ ☎

GHOST COUNTRY: Halloween in Noe Valley was a big deal. The party started on Friday, Oct. 30, in the early afternoon, when the kids from St. Philip School marched in costume from Elizabeth Street down 24th Street to Sanchez and back again.

As the little witches and Michael Jacksons danced by, cauldron stirrers from The Swann Group, When Modern Was, and other shops happily surrendered their treats.

Slow Sanchez Street celebrated with parades of costumed characters on Friday the 30th and Saturday the 31st. There was a huge turnout on both days, with bands playing for the revelers day and night. Sanchez residents handed out tons of treats. Alvarado School parents and students put together a band that was a showstopper. They performed on Friday afternoon and had everyone rocking.

On Halloween day, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., the porch above Bernie's Coffee (3966 24th) rocked and rolled a huge crowd on both sides of 24th Street. The third annual Grand Olde Rhinestoned Revival was the creation of Thee Olde Country, a theatrical classic country band headquartered in the flat above Bernie's since its founding in 2003. They were spectacular and had many in the crowd singing along with every song in their long set of country music. The band treated everyone to Dolly Parton songs that brought tears to many eyes.

Thee Olde Country's cast of characters includes Colorado and Sandi Sweetwater, played by real-life partners Eric and Alle Jonasson; Sadie Baby (Rebecca Coseboom); Pastor Nack (Andrei Pastornak); Shasta Dan (Matt Ayotte); and the Milk Man (Tim Marcus). Eric Jonasson is bandleader.

The show-stopper was the afternoon's youngest star, 6-year-old Miller Lewis-Sims, who appeared in full Dolly regalia, complete with a blonde wig, and delivered a perfect rendition of "Applejack," punctuated by one-liners, including the immortal Dollyism "It costs a lot of money to look this cheap!" while performing Parton's big hit "Jolene."



Local movers and shakers (l. to r.) Carol Yenne, Debra Niemann, Daniel Lurie, Bevan Dufty, and Rafael Mandelman pose before kicking off festivities at the Noe Valley Town Square anniversary celebration, disco bash, and light show on Oct. 24. *Photo courtesy Bill Yenne*

On Halloween night, Slow Sanchez was jammed with about a thousand parents and kids streaming up and down the street. Obviously, this venue was much preferred over 24th Street as the witching hour approached.

Parking for residents of northern Noe Valley historically had been a challenge, since crowds from all over the Bay Area came to the many events in the Castro. But on this Halloween, four blocks of the Castro were blocked off to traffic. It appears everyone got to the party by public transit or Uber, since parking in Noe Valley North was not a problem.

Surprisingly, however, costumed parents and kids didn't show up on 24th Street on Halloween night in the same numbers as they had in the past.

Maybe the eerie quiet had to do with the Golden State Valkyries' championship game versus the Atlanta Dream, which tipped off at 5 o'clock Halloween night. All of Ballhalla stopped to cheer on the Valks (and eat their candy). The team won 68–63.

☎ ☎ ☎

THE SLOWDOWN: By the way, Friends of Slow Sanchez reported that the SFMTA approved a reduction in the speed limit on Slow Sanchez Street, from 25 mph to 15 mph. "The signs are up!" said the group's Oct. 22 newsletter.

Also, the slow folks reported they had a great Neighbors Dinner on a long table outdoors on Oct. 3.

FSS also asked neighbors to take a survey on whether to add purple cross-street signs warning drivers they are about to cross Slow Sanchez. The "wayfinding" signs are already on other slow streets, such as Shotwell in the Mission.

☎ ☎ ☎

DEMS THE NEWS: I'm sure you heard that the Noe Valley Democratic Club's original pick for District 8 supervisor, Manny Yekutiel, suspended his campaign Oct. 1, within hours of the San Francisco Standard publishing new sexual misconduct allegations against him.

The Noe Valley Democratic Club then decided to survey its members by eBallot to see if they wanted to endorse anyone else.

On Oct. 10, the club announced the results of their new poll: "Darshini Patel received the most support, followed by no endorsement, and then by Gary McCoy. No candidate received the 60 percent support required to earn the Noe Valley Democratic Club's endorsement. The results reflect differing views among our membership and no clear consensus around a candidate. As a result, the club will not make an endorsement in the District 8 Supervisor race at this time."

I am looking forward to sharing in next month's Rumors the actual neighborhood votes cast on Nov. 3. As you might know, there are about 17,000 residents who have registered to vote, with about 92 percent registered as Democrats.

☎ ☎ ☎

SHORT SHRIFTS: I am told by Martha and Bros. Coffee owners Martha Monroy and Patricia Larizadeh that by the end of November their retrofitted, remodeled, and modernized coffee house at 3850 24th St. will reopen. It appears their plan is to leave their shop on the corner of 24th and Vicksburg open as well.

The new Perilla Noe Valley, a Vietnamese fusion restaurant, soft-opened Friday, Oct. 30, at noon. It's located at 4109 24th near Castro.

It looks like a toy store called Five Little Monkeys will be opening by Christmas in the large storefront next to Whole Foods, at 3938 24th. The toy store was founded in 2001 by Stephanie Sala and has eight stores around the Bay Area. This will be their first in San Francisco.

Santa has offered to take free pet photos at Noe Valley Pet Company at 1451 Church St. on Saturday, Nov. 21, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

And Memento SF restaurant, at 1305 Castro at 24th, has opened its popular holiday bar. (Last year, they waited until after Thanksgiving.) Says co-owner Suhair Nimri, "There are special cocktails. Everything is decorated like a New York holiday bar, with colored lights, and the restaurant looks like a holiday gift. You have to come see it."

☎ ☎ ☎

AT LAST! The answers to last month's Noe Valley Quiz:

1. Where was Cotton Basics located in Noe Valley? On the corner of 24th and Castro, where the Lace & Liberty bridal boutique is now (1301 Castro).

2. In what Downtown Noe Valley restaurant can you order matzos ball soup as an appetizer and donuts for dessert? Grand Lake Kitchen Noe Valley, at 1199 Church St. at 24th.

3. Where in Noe Valley can you buy handmade cowboy boots? Routier Leather Goods at 3920 24th, Suite B.

4. When was the first issue of the *Noe Valley Voice* published? May 1977.

5. What major film was shot in part in Noe Valley in 2021? Academy award winner Shang-Chi and the Legend of Ten Rings.

6. What film was shot in Upper Noe Valley and released in 1992? Sister Act, starring Whoopi Goldberg.

7. Where in Noe Valley was Dan's Gas and Diesel located? 3861 24th St., where the Noe Valley Town Square now resides.

8. Where is Noe Valley's "Slow Street"? Sanchez between 23rd and 30th streets.

9. What store in Noe Valley sells Halloween costumes, wigs, jewelry, and decorations? One Stop Party Shop at 1600 Church St.

10. Where is the steepest drivable street in Noe Valley? It is on 22nd Street, from Vicksburg to Church, with an average grade of just over 31%.

☎ ☎ ☎

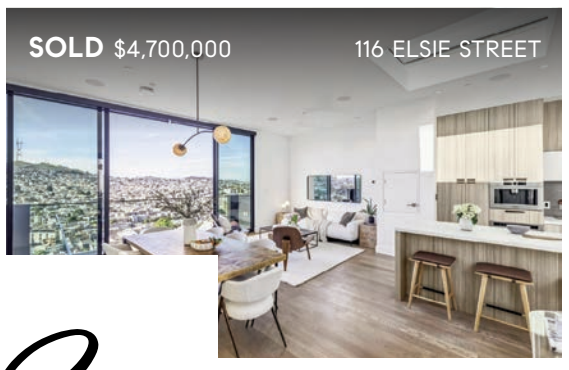
THAT'S ALL, Y'ALL. See you in December.

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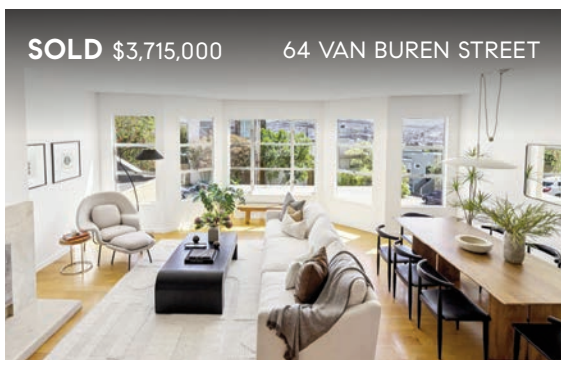


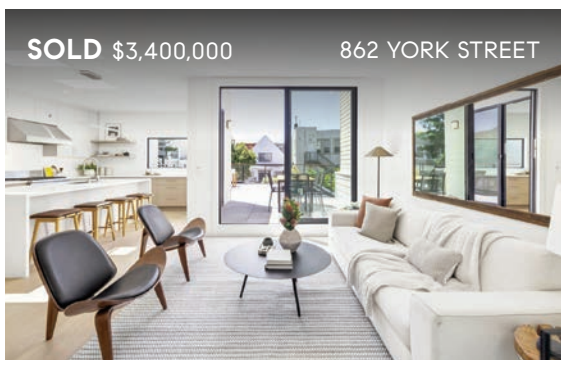


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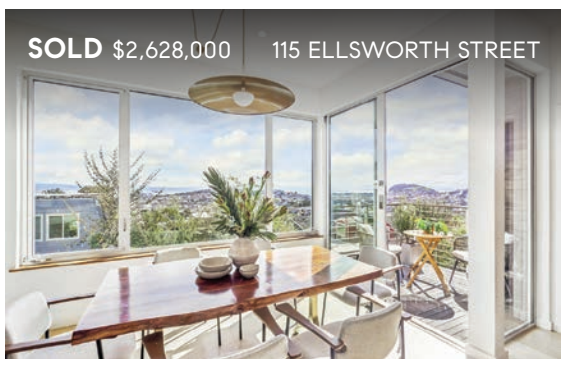


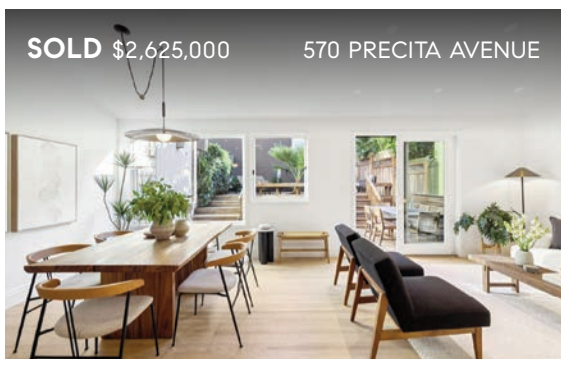


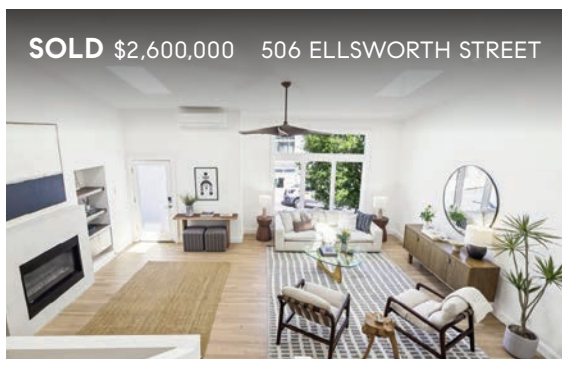


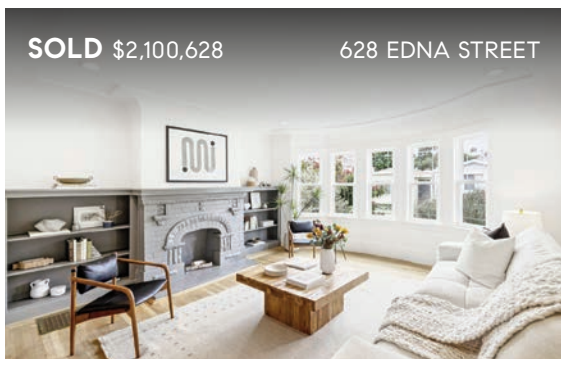


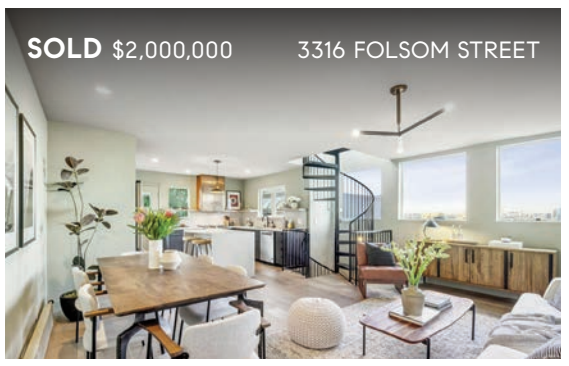
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